THE TIMES

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THE TIMES GREAT SUMMER OF SPORT

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Move to end rumours about Hogg

Major urged to announce early reshuffle

BY PHILIP WEBSTER, POLITICAL EDITOR

SENIOR ministers are urging John Major to bring forward next month's planned reshuffle to end speculation about the future of some Cabinet members, including the Agriculture Minister, Douglas Hogg.

The Prime Minister has said that he wants to leave the Cabinet unchanged, but a reshuffle of middle-ranking ministers is being forced on him by Tim Eggar and Steven Norris, who want to leave frontline politics. Mr Major had planned to make the changes at the end of next month, but he is now being advised to announce them next week.

Friends of the Prime Minister are blaming ambitious ministers who see the reshuffle as their last chance to enter the Cabinet for recent speculation that Mr Hogg, Virginia Bottomley, the Heritage Secretary, and Lord Mackay of Clashfern, the Lord Chancellor, should be dropped, and others — including Gillian Shephard, the Education Secretary — moved.

There is also pressure within the Cabinet for Mr Hogg to be removed, and Brian Mawhinney, the party chairman, is among those who think he should go.

The Agriculture Minister has made mistakes during the beef crisis and some of his exchanges with his European colleagues have been undiplomatic, but Mr Major's friends believe the Prime Minister would prefer not to drop him.

They also believe, however, that Mr Hogg's position — in common with others under attack — will become untenable if the propaganda against them is allowed to continue throughout July.

Mr Major will therefore be advised to focus on the changes when he returns from the G7 summit of industrialised nations in Lyons at the weekend. He could then announce replacements for Mr Eggar, the Energy Minister, and Mr Norris, the Transport Minister, next week, along with the consequent changes in the lower ranks.

If he remains of the view that he does not want to alter the Cabinet, he could then make plain that no further changes were envisaged before the general election.

Mr Major has let it be known only this week that he sees no reason to move Mr Hogg, and that he does not take kindly to Cabinet ministers trying to carry out his reshuffles for him.

Even so, ministers were briefing that Mr Hogg's days were numbered, minutes after Roger Freeman, the Public Service Minister, had told the Commons that he was safe in his job.

A senior minister close to Mr Major said yesterday: "There are a lot of ambitious people out there. Some of them are certain we will lose the election and are desperate to get the rank of Cabinet minister on their CVs before we go down."

Reports that David Davis, the Minister of State for European Affairs, was on the point of resignation because of his frustration over the Government's approach to the beef crisis before it declared its policy of non-cooperation with Europe, are dominating conversations among Conservative MPs.

Mr Davis's Euro-sceptic friends are blaming senior pro-Europeans for spreading the stories to destroy his chances of getting into the Cabinet and to secure promotion for ministers such as Nicholas Soames and David Curry.

However, Mr Davis is also felt by some MPs to have done his own prospects little good by reacting slowly to the reports when they first appeared last Thursday night, with the result that they gained momentum and made the front pages of many newspapers.

Mr Major's circle is meanwhile blaming the Tory Right for recent reports suggesting that the Prime Minister was at odds with Mrs Shephard over selection and grammar schools.

Although the Downing Street policy unit headed by Norman Blackwell has consistently been pushing a radical line on education, it is understood there have been regular discussions between Mrs Shephard and Mr Major at which they agreed the pace of change outlined in yesterday's White Paper.

White Paper, page 8

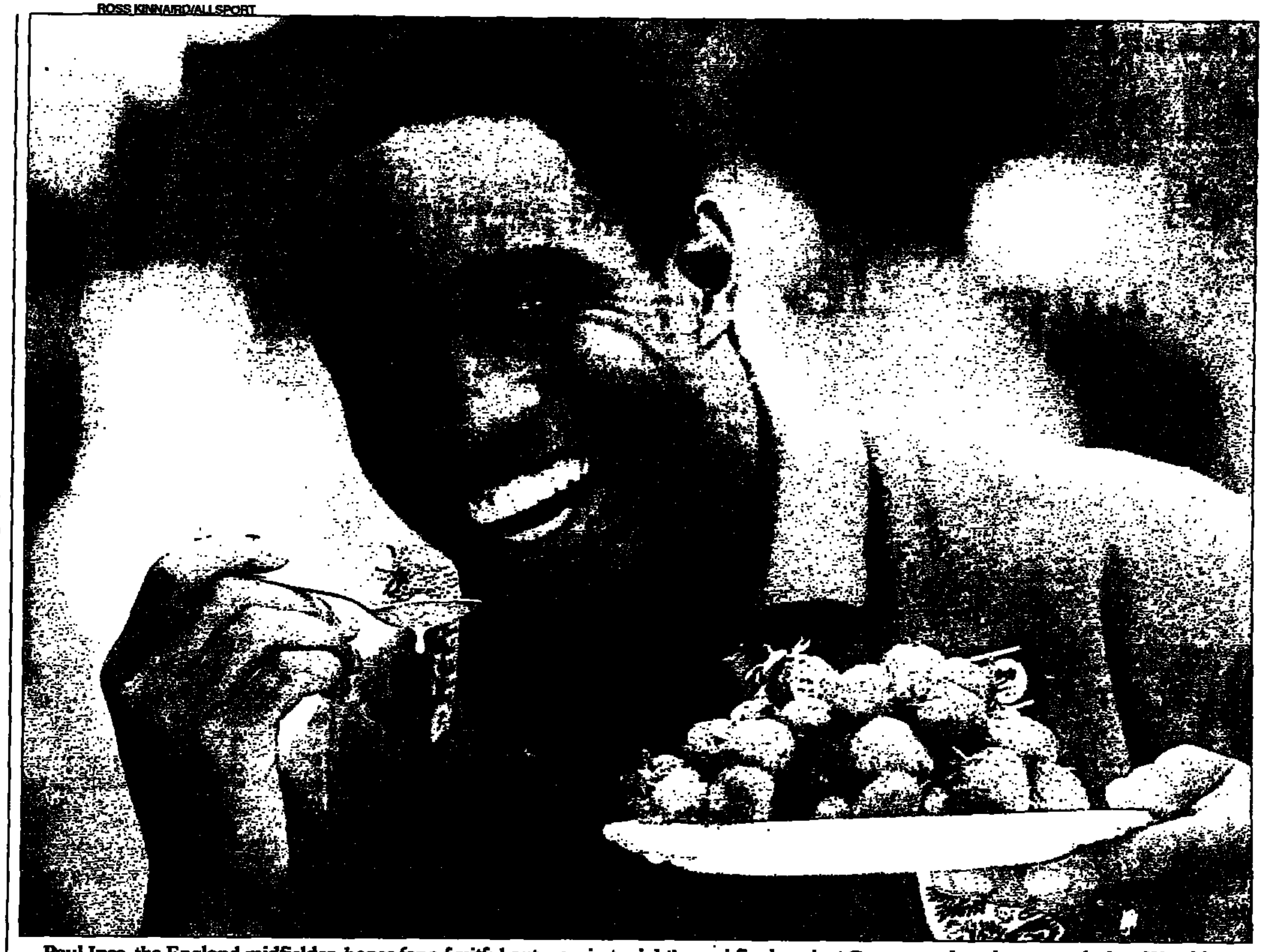
How Parliament could change

The Prime Minister will counter opposition plans for constitutional change today when he puts forward proposed reforms of the working of Parliament.

John Major will suggest that the Queen's Speech should move from November to May and that it should set out Bills planned for the following two years, rather than one as at present. That would give extra time for select committees and interested parties to examine draft legislation before it is put before the Commons.

Mr Major will outline his plans in a speech to the Centre for Policy Studies during which he will oppose "change for change's sake". Mr Major believes that Labour's plans would weaken Parliament, which, he says, is supreme because it is the voice of the people and "the focus for the country at times of national grief, outrage and conflict".

ROSS KINNAIRD/ALLSPORT



Paul Ince, the England midfielder, hopes for a fruitful outcome in tonight's semi-final against Germany when the teams clash at Wembley

Football sends England fans rushing home

BY ADRIAN LEE AND DIANA THORP

MILLIONS will rush home from work tonight to take their television seats for England's soccer clash with Germany in the Euro 96 semi-final.

In addition to 76,000 fans at Wembley, another 20 million are expected to watch on television. A spokesman for the AA said: "The rush hour will be much more concentrated than normal. Roads will be deserted during the game."

Theatregoers are voting for an early night, too. A spokesman for the Garrick Theatre, in London's West End, said half their seats are unsold for this evening. The English National Opera also reported empty spaces and the Ritz Restaurant blamed football for a fall in bookings.

The Engineering Employers Federation has invited 500 people to a dinner at the Guildhall tonight but the number was dwindling by the hour last night. And a party hosted by the Foreign Office has been cancelled. But some workers will miss England's biggest match for six years. Employers at Vauxhall, one of the sponsors of Euro 96, refused to allow workers to clock on late at their Luton plant and make up time afterwards, saying it would affect production lines. A company spokesman said workers could listen on radios.

Electricity companies were preparing for a power surge after the game but said yesterday they should have no trouble coping with demand.

The England fans' anthem, *Three Lions* by the Lightning Seeds, is expected to regain the top position in the music charts on Sunday. HMV said there had been a tenfold increase in sales.

Meanwhile, England fans are rushing to buy their warpaint for tonight's semi-final. There is only one drawback. All the best-selling body paints are made in Germany.

John Major yesterday wished the England team well and said the tournament so far had been a "stunning success". His comments followed criticism of some tabloid newspapers, and the *Daily Mirror* in particular, amid claims that their treatment of the match was insulting to the Germans. The Prime Minister congratulated the teams and spectators on the spirit they have displayed during those games. "It has been a friendly, carnival atmosphere so far. I hope nothing changes between now and the final."

Mirror protest, page 2
Letters, page 21
Sense of occasion, page 52

"I'm not going grey, son, it's indigo"

Redwood on the German problem

A controversial demand for Britain to be ready to stand up to German bullying and to resist Chancellor Kohl's vision of a European state is delivered by John Redwood in *The Times* today.

With politicians trying to lower nationalist passions in advance of tonight's game, Mr Redwood raises the political temperature by calling on Britain to give alternative leadership in Europe. Helmut Kohl, he says, is living in the past .... Page 20

Woolwich deal for Robinson

Peter Robinson, the former chief executive of the Woolwich Building Society, has signed a confidential deal with his former employer giving him a pension of at least £133,000 a year.

Mr Robinson, 54, who had a two-year contract and an annual salary of £300,000, left the society abruptly in April over allegations of irregularities, including using society resources for work on his home. He has denied the allegations .... Page 27, 29

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Buddhist 'Dead Sea Scrolls' uncovered by British Library

BY DALYA ALBERGE, ARTS CORRESPONDENT

THE British Library has discovered sensational manuscript fragments the potential significance of which for Buddhist scholars is comparable with that of the Dead Sea Scrolls for Christianity and Judaism.

The manuscripts, birchbark scrolls that looked like "badly rolled up cigars" when first shown to the Library, are believed to be the earliest surviving Buddhist texts.

"These will allow scholars to get nearer to what Buddha said than ever before," said Graham Shaw, deputy director of the Library's Oriental and India Office Collections. They date from the end of the 1st century AD or the beginning of the 2nd century AD.

Buddha, a charismatic figure who inspired disciples to spread his teachings, died in 486 BC. "With these", said Mr Shaw, "we're within 500 to 600 years of his death."

Apart from bringing scholars closer to the original language of the Buddha, this could corroborate the authenticity of teachings and sermons recounted in later texts.

The Buddhist scrolls

The manuscripts include 60 fragments, ranging from Buddha's sermons to poems and treatises on the psychology of perception. The Library acquired them from a British dealer for a "five-figure sum", with help from an anonymous donor.

Seen in a new light, their value is "incalculable", Mr Shaw said. "How would you put a value on the Dead Sea Scrolls?"

It is believed that they are part of the long-lost canon of the Sarvastivadin sect which dominated Gandhara — modern north Pakistan and east Afghanistan — and was instrumental in the spread of Buddhism into central and east Asia. Gandhara was one of the greatest centres of Buddhism in ancient times.

Mr Shaw explained: "The scrolls tell us something about the way Buddhists passed on the teachings, which were for a long time passed on orally."

After Buddha's death, his disciples are said to have gathered in assemblies where they recited his sermons and organised them into what came to be the Buddhist canon.

Asia today has some 130 million Buddhists; another 270,000 live in Britain, which boasts some of the finest Buddhist antiquities.

The scrolls were acquired 18 months ago. Mr Shaw said it has taken that long to study them: "Suspecting it might be important is one thing, but getting academic confirmation is another."

Continued on page 2, col 7

What we believe, page 19

Grammar streams may return next year

BY JOHN O'LEARY, EDUCATION EDITOR

MINISTERS aim to rush through legislation to revive grammar schools and give comprehensives freedom to select more bright pupils.

Gillian Shephard, the Education Secretary, said that "grammar streams" could be introduced in some comprehensive schools in September next year as a result of the White Paper published yesterday. Local authority schools would be allowed to select a fifth of pupils, even if councillors objected, and governors and parents would have to consider introducing selection every year.

Mrs Shephard admitted, however, that it would be "touch and go" whether the measures reached the statute book before the election.

White Paper, page 8
Simon Jenkins, page 20
Leading article, page 21

Joy for British aces

Henman: epic victory

BY JOANNA BALE

BRITISH tennis boasted two great victories at Wimbledon yesterday as Tim Henman and Greg Rusedski won their matches in nail-biting style.

Henman beat Yevgeny Kafelnikov, of Russia, 7-6, 6-3, 6-7, 4-6, 7-5 in a 3hr 36min epic and Rusedski beat Canada's Daniel Nestor 7-6, 7-6, 6-2. Seven British men are now through to the second round.

Wimbledon reports, pages 46, 47 and 52

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Team captain misses a sitter for a less than satisfactory result

MATTHEW PARRIS

POLITICAL SKETCH

OK, nobody expected John Major to stand at the dispatch box and *shout "Stuff the Krauts!"* Nobody wanted him to sing " 'Ere we go, 'ere we go." No one was asking him to chant "Two-nil/To the Ing-er-land!" From *any Prime Minister, but* especially this one, a shout of "Away the lads!" would sound wrong in the Commons.

But was it too much to ask *him to say out loud* that he wanted England to win?

"I hope," said the Prime Minister, "they play well and have a satisfactory result." *A satisfactory result?* Spit it out, John: *say* it for heaven's sake. *Win!* Three little letters, one little word: one plain, unambiguous hope; a firm coming-down on this side of the fence...

But no: something deep in Mr Major's peculiar psyche had gagged at the sheer, naked commitment of the word "win" and, as the ball of his argument spun straight towards an open goal, headed it off sideways on to the post. Awesome words, those little ones, like "win", "lose", "love", "hate", "reject", "accept".

Through the weird and fascinating marshes of John Major's unconscious mind cruise deadly, pith-detecting missiles, their mission plain: "Seek and destroy meaning!" *Pith-warning! Pith-warning!* Danger lights flash and sirens wail. "Red alert! The Prime Minister is approaching a definite statement! Mr Major is about to mean something! Avert! Evade! Abort!

Even his own Cabinet colleagues could not conceal their mirth. Good-natured John McFall (Lab, Dumbarton) had offered up a patsy question, inviting Mr Major to wish England well *tonight* and to condemn tabloid xenophobia.

This offered Major two free kicks: the chance to say "win", or perhaps even (snakes alive!) "score" or (horrors!) "goal", and at the same time to condemn the *Daily Mirror*, a Labour-leaning paper which would stamp on his neck if it got the chance. But could Mr *Major hope for a "win", or* condemn "the *Daily Mirror*"?

Could he heck. "Win" became "satisfactory result", "*Daily Mirror*", "a certain *tabloid newspaper*". *We half* expected him to wish England a staged framework for the achievement of goals.

This sort of thing is quite instinctive with Mr Major, whose prose I have been submitting to textual analysis for some years. It is absolutely not the case that *his panic-stricken* grasp for an ambiguous phrase whenever a plain-*speaking* word looms arises from any ambiguity in his own thought. *He knows very* clearly what he wants and thinks. The fear (which is *unconscious*) is of *saying* it.

Nor does this dislike of being clear arise from mendacity. Major is more honest than his predecessor, but she would express herself punchily even when her *intention* was to mislead. In short, far from using ambiguity to further his own advantage, Mr Major sells himself short by hesitating to say what *he could easily* say and knows he thinks.

If, as this Prime Minister *speaks*, you follow the prereleased texts of his speeches, you will notice *his habit of* departing from the script wherever it contains a short, brisk, taut sentence. He snaps *the backbone* of his speechwriter's drafts by inserting dead phrases like "now, in the past, or in the months and years ahead". Required to read a *three-word sentence* — "Nor will I" — Mr Major will find himself saying "Nor will I, er, do so."

He does this automatically, *self-defeatingly. Even while* acting decisively, Major is intuitively averse to the *sound of decisiveness. It must reflect* some deep, childhood terror of being pinned down.

Major defies Tory revolt on military homes sale

By Arthur Leathley, political correspondent

JOHN MAJOR set himself on a collision course with dozens of Tory MPs yesterday by brushing aside demands to *stop the £1.6 billion* sale of Armed Forces' married quarters.

The Prime Minister took a tough line in backing the sale of 58,000 homes in the face of one of the biggest threatened rebellions against the Government. Only hours after 65 *Conservative MPs told minis*ters that the sale would destroy service morale and allow developers to "cream off" the best housing, Mr Major insisted that opposition was based on misunderstanding. His stance infuriated several backbenchers who said he had been "ill-advised". *One senior* MP added: "He will be made *to regret* those words."

The sale, planned for September, has angered the Royal British Legion, the Army Families Federation and other service organisations which claim that the proposal will *lead to the break-up* of Armed Forces housing over the next 25 years. Labour is preparing to force a vote on the issue before the Commons recess next month.

Yesterday Tony Blair seized *on the mounting* Tory *dissent* by claiming that ministers were pushing the proposals with "indecent haste". Backbench Tories, including several former ministers, have led the campaign to force the Government to put the proposals before MPs and peers.

The Treasury-driven plan involves the sale and lease-back of military homes for up to 25 years, to save money on the *running of 800 housing sites* in England and Wales, where *20 per cent of houses are* vacant. Senior Tory sources admitted that the strength of backbench feeling had caught ministers off-guard.

Mr Major told MPs that the proposed sale would free £100 *million to refurbish and im*prove poor-quality housing. He rejected suggestions by the Labour leader that service estates would be broken up, that the taxpayer would lose out and that the Ministry of Defence would lose control of the housing stock.

The Prime Minister said: "It is going to release substantial sums of money for improving and refurbishing service families' homes. There will be little change for the occupants. It will emphatically not mean that the service people's rents will rise. It will not mean problem families being dumped on MoD estates and it will not mean service personnel being moved against their will."

Government sources have suggested that the campaign, *backed by many John Red*wood supporters, is being coordinated by the former minister in an effort to embarrass Michael Portillo, the Defence Secretary and a potential rightwing rival for the Tory leadership. Mr Redwood dismissed the suggestion.

Crowds come out to greet Prince in Belfast

By Nicholas Watt
chief Ireland correspondent

THE Prince of Wales was mobbed by cheering supporters in Belfast yesterday as he met Protestants and Roman Catholics on the first day of the biggest royal visit to Northern Ireland for two decades.

One elderly admirer broke *through a crowd of up to 1,000* during a walkabout in North Belfast to plant a kiss on his cheek. Hannah Caldwell, 84, who wore a Union Jack hat and was dressed in the colours of the flag, grabbed the *Prince* and told him to make up with the Princess of Wales.

Mrs Caldwell, a widowed grandmother, said afterwards: "I told him to get together again. He said, 'Ah all right.' "

The Prince visited the loyalist area after arriving on *board the Britannia.* He will be in the Province for three days.

One of his first engagements was at Mountcollyer youth club, in North Belfast, where he met young people from both sides of the community and from the Irish *Republic.*

The club is less than a mile from the scene of last Friday's disturbance when republicans threw petrol bombs at the RUC in protest at a loyalist Orange march.

The Prince had a taste of the difficulties of living in Belfast when a Roman Catholic member of Belfast Youth Forum told him of her fears of crossing the "peace line" to meet him at the club. Louisa Ward, 17, said: "I told the Prince that I was a bit worried about coming because it is a Protestant area. The peace line is not a barrier, but it is a line I would not normally cross."

A Protestant youth group *that has been on holiday with* Roman Catholics was asked by the Prince why nationalists and Unionists still fought each other. Lisa Vokes, 17, said: "We told him that we felt intimidated by them."

Paula O'Sullivan, 16, of Cork Youth Development Centre, who was invited to Northern Ireland by the Prince's Trust, was impressed by the patron. She said: "He *asked me about the differ*ences between Belfast and Cork. He was very nice and down to earth."

The *Britannia* is expected to sail around the North Antrim coast today before docking in Londonderry. It is the first time that *Britannia* has docked in the Province's harbours. When the Queen visited for two days in 1977 the ship moored off the coast *because of security fears.*

One of the main aims of the visit is to boost Northern Ireland's tourism industry. The Prince is expected to visit a number of tourist attractions in the Province.

CRISPIN RODWELL

The Prince receiving a warm welcome in North Belfast from Hannah Caldwell, 84

Scrolls find

Continued from page 1

Although virtually nothing is known about their provenance, their attribution has been confirmed by Professor Richard Salomon, based at the University of Washington in *Seattle.*

He is one of the world's *greatest scholars of Kharosthi* — a script derived from the Aramaic alphabet that was restricted to a small area of India. They are, he said, "the Dead Sea Scrolls of Buddhism".

Years of *study* lie ahead before the text can be deciphered, analysed and *compared* with existing texts.

The fragments include tales told on Lake Anavatapta's banks at an assembly of the Buddha and his disciples. Buddhists believe in reincarnation and each explains his deeds in a former life and how *they influenced this one.*

Just getting a peek at the text proved difficult. Those involved had to uncurl the "cigars" whose fragility was a conservator's nightmare. Mr Shaw said: "It is fiendishly *brittle material. The first ques*tion was, 'will these ever unroll or *will they* simply crumble into many pieces?'

"There have been reports in old excavations of things like this having been found and the moment they were touched literally crumbled to dust."

In just purchasing them, he explained, "we were taking a risk. One didn't know whether they were salvable.

"We put them in a bell jar overnight and allowed them to be slowly moistened", he explained. "*Then we took the* next awful step. Holding our breath, one of our conservators used tweezers and began unrolling, and another applied more moisture, without saturating it."

Mr Shaw said that the exact origin is unknown beyond *that they were probably found* in Afghanistan in earthenware jars. These, too, may be original pieces, but tests have yet to be conducted on them.

What we believe, page 19

NEWS IN BRIEF

IRA haul included new type of bomb

John Bruton, the Irish Prime Minister, said yesterday that Irish Police discovered a new type of IRA bomb when they uncovered a terrorist bomb-making factory in the Republic last week. He told the Irish Parliament that dozens of the bombs, which are believed to be a new type of mortar, were being prepared for early use.

Hours after his comments Irish police displayed the haul, uncovered during a raid on a bunker in Clonaslee, Co *Laois, last week.* The arms, which included live mortars, *launchers,* and explosives, also included a new type of timing device. Four men charged over the find were remanded in custody by Dublin's Special Criminal Court yesterday until July 9.

Talks to avert Tube strike fail

A near-total shutdown of the London Underground network is expected tomorrow after conciliation talks aimed at averting a one-day strike failed. More than 2,000 driv*ers belonging* to the Aslef union will refuse to work from midnight tonight in a dispute over pay and working hours. Dockland Light Railway and mainline trains will *run as normal.*

Devices on line stop trains

Trains on the Settle-Carlisle *line were stopped for several* hours last night after homemade *devices linked* to animal-rights activists were found near by. Police believe the target was a nearby poultry farm at Langwathby, *Cumbria. The devices, includ*ing petrol bombs, were found in a *holdall and a rucksack.* Army bomb disposal experts examined the find.

Revenge killer jailed for life

A clerk who stabbed a solici*tor eight years after being* sacked from a law firm for stealing £1.50 was jailed for life. John Vine, 39, of Thornhill, Southampton, was found guilty of the murder of Nigel Lightfoot, 60, senior *partner at Lamport Bassitt. At* Winchester Crown Court, Vine admitted manslaughter on the grounds of diminished responsibility or provocation.

Bailiffs descend on Birmingham

Bailiffs entered the offices of Birmingham City Council yesterday and threatened to seize the assets of England's largest local authority over a debt of £200,000. The bailiffs toured Birmingham's Council House compiling an inventory of the Labour-controlled council's more valuable possessions. A cheque was signed by the city's finance director within an hour.

Surrogate mother loses adoption ruling appeal

By Gillian Bowditch, Scotland correspondent

A SURROGATE mother who accepted £8,000 in exchange for her baby lost a court action yesterday to try to have him *returned to her. The mother,* aged 38, said she had regretted *her role as a surrogate* from the moment her son was born in March last year.

Three Appeal Court judges ruled that the couple to whom the women gave the baby are free to adopt him, although buying babies for adoption is illegal in Britain.

The judges, ruling in the Court of Session in Edinburgh, said that the welfare of the baby was the main consideration. The adoptive parents, a Fife police officer and his wife, were described in court as "excellent parents".

Counsel for the natural *mother,* Ms S, said she was too distressed at the time of the *birth to know* what she was doing and her consent at that stage should be disregarded. Ms S has four other children by a man who does not live with her. The court heard that *she was living on benefit at the* time and had falsely stated on the form sent to her by the surrogate agency which arranged the initial meeting that she was cohabiting.

Mr and Mrs C met Ms S in July 1994 and Ms S artificially inseminated herself with Mr C's *sperm.*

Ms S asked for a cheque for £1,000 in November 1994. On March 30 1995 the baby was born *in a hospital in the north* of England. Mr and Mrs C went to the labour ward and placed two cheques for £2,000 and £5,000 along with a bracelet in the mother's overnight bag. Mrs C then fed the baby with a bottle.

The court heard that the *baby had bonded well with the* adoptive couple and that the natural mother was a stranger to him. A month after the birth Ms S told her doctor she wanted her baby back and the legal battle began.

She took her case to the Scottish courts *and in Febru*ary a sheriff ruled that Ms S had acted unreasonably in withholding adoption consent. He also ruled that Mr and Mrs C had broken the law by contravening the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Act 1990 by making a payment of £8,000.

He refused to make an adoption order and instead he gave the adoptive parents custody of the child and banned the natural mother from visiting the baby.

Yesterday Lord Hope, sitting with Lord Allanbridge and Lord Weir rejected the Ms S's claims and ruled in favour *of the couple, allowing them to* adopt the baby.

Vauxhall boycotts 'jingoistic' tabloids

By Alexandra Frean, media correspondent

ONE of the country's biggest advertisers is boycotting the *Daily Mirror* and the *Daily Star* in protest against the papers' xenophobic coverage of the Euro 96 football championships.

Vauxhall, which spends £56 million a year on advertising and is an official sponsor of Euro 96, said it had decided not to run advertisements for its Vectra saloon car in today's editions of the two tabloids because it had been offended by their coverage on Monday, *which compared tonight's* semi-final clash between England and Germany with the Second World War.

Wolfgang Schubert, Vauxhall's marketing communications director, who happens to be German, said last night that the company *wanted to reflect the buoyant* mood of England supporters by *running a "fun" and "topi*cal" press advertisement to coincide with today's match. "We think it is important not to offend anyone, so we have run the Vectra ad in every national newspaper except *those papers which we feel* have gone too far," he said.

The Daily Mirror's front page on Monday included the headlines "Mirror Declares Football War on Germany" and "Achtung! Surrender ... For you Fritz, ze Euro 96 Championship is over", and an *open letter to readers* written in the style of Neville *Chamberlain's famous radio* broadcast announcing the outbreak of war in 1939. The *Daily Star* also drew heavily on wartime imagery.

The Press Complaints Commission received a record number of 260 telephone calls yesterday from readers protesting against the *Mirror's* anti-German coverage.

Diary, page 20

Ruling on refugees' housing overturned

By Richard Ford, home correspondent

THOUSANDS of penniless asylum seekers have been unlawfully denied council housing, the Appeal Court ruled yesterday. The decision *was made by the same three* judges who last week overturned the Government's benefit curbs on asylum seekers.

The *judges* unanimously decided that four London councils were wrong to exclude the refugees from shelter and must now reconsider.

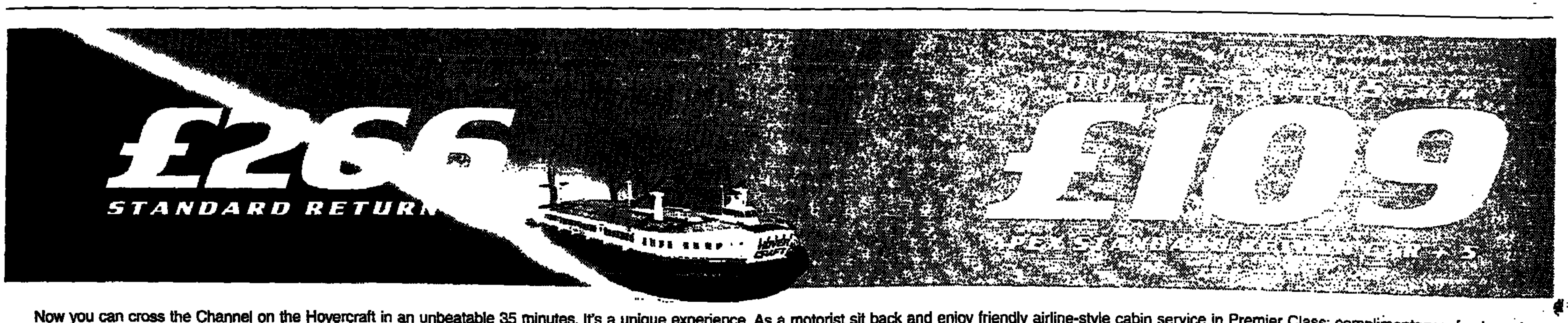
Lord Justice Neill said that the applicants' status as destitute asylum seekers could amount to a "special reason" why local authorities should treat them as having a "priority need" entitling them to temporary accommodation.

Lord Justice Brown said: "I *see no good reason why some*one likely to suffer 'injury or *detriment' through a total* inability to clothe, feed or shelter himself should be any less entitled to priority housing than someone vulnerable through age or disablement."

The London boroughs of Islington, Kensington and Chelsea and Hammersmith and Fulham, and Westminster City Council, were given leave to appeal to the House of Lords against yesterday's judgment in a test case brought by applicants from Kenya, Ethiopia, Bulgaria and Zaire.

The judgment overturns a *High Court ruling* by Mr Justice Popplewell that asylum seekers left destitute by the Government's benefits crackdown were not legally entitled to housing. Refugee charities said thousands of people would *have been affect*ed by such a decision.

Yesterday Mr Major defended the Government's *move to cut benefits* to asylum seekers, saying he believed the vast majority of the country supported its action.



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Church conspiracy led to sex charges against theologian

By Gillian Bowditch, Scotland Correspondent

A LEADING Scottish theologian was yesterday acquitted of five charges of sexual assault after a court ruled that he was the victim of a church conspiracy.

Professor Donald Macleod, 55, Professor of Systematic Theology at the Free Church College in Edinburgh, was hounded by powerful members of the Free Church of Scotland for more than ten years. They spread rumours and innuendo about his personal life and prevented him from preaching and publishing articles.

According to Sheriff John Horsburgh, members of the strict religious denomination perjured themselves in court and "broke the ninth commandment" in an effort to ensure Professor Macleod was convicted of five criminal charges that three church committees had failed to substantiate.

The Church, known informally as The Wee Frees, is particularly influential in the Highlands and Islands of Scotland. It is one of the last strongholds of traditional puritanism and sabbatarianism.

Professor Macleod maintained at Edinburgh Sheriff Court that the women who accused him were pawns of powerful members of the Church who hated his liberal views and his popularity with churchgoers. Chief among those was the Rev John J. Murray, minister of St Columba's Church in Edinburgh, who had waged a vendetta against him.

The first witness for the prosecution was Miss A, a 28-year-old university graduate and close relative of Professor Macleod. She said that on visiting his Edinburgh home ten years ago, he pressed her to him and kissed her passionately.

Sheriff Horsburgh said the woman had "a bias against and hostility towards Professor Macleod". She was both "defensive and contentious" when giving evidence. There were also inconsistencies in her evidence.

The second witness, Dr B, 35, a senior lecturer in statistics, said that the professor had sexually assaulted her on two occasions, once in his study in the Free Church College in Edinburgh and once in a parked car.

The Sheriff said he had found the woman to be a "powerful personality". He did not believe that she would have kept quiet during a sustained assault.

The three other women who made allegations against Professor Macleod were all members of the same Free Church in Edinburgh and were good friends of Mr Murray. They alleged the professor had tried to kiss them. All denied they were part of a conspiracy.

The charge relating to one of the women was dropped after she gave a different date for the assault from that on the charge sheet. The Sheriff said he felt there were discrepancies in the accounts given by both the other witnesses.

Going through evidence of attempts to discredit Professor Macleod by those inside the Free Church, including Mr Murray, Sheriff Horsburgh said he felt witnesses were right to regard Mr Murray as "a dangerous man".

Sheriff Horsburgh said: "From all the evidence, I have come to the conclusion there was a conspiracy. It involved a number of people inside and outside the Free Church. They may have had different reasons for their hostility towards [the professor], but the common objective was his downfall."

Afterwards Professor Macleod posed for pictures with his wife Mary and said he would not bring legal action against his accusers. "Life is too short. I want to get on with my life," he said.

Professor Macleod and his wife Mary after the trial

Puritanical sect falls from grace

By Our Scotland Correspondent

ONLY in the Free Church of Scotland would Professor Donald Macleod be seen as a liberal. At 55 and standing 6ft tall, this unsmiling Calvinist with his booming West Highland voice and sober navy suits is most people's idea of a hell-fire-and-brimstone preacher.

But in the confines of the Free Church, which has changed little since its establishment in 1843, Professor Macleod is seen by some as a dangerous reformer whose desire to drag the Church into the 20th century may destroy it.

The professor, regarded as the Church's most brilliant mind, takes a relaxed view on a number of issues that the Free Church holds dear. He is not upset by women wearing trousers or attending church bareheaded. In court he said he did not hold with the Free Church article of faith which describes the Pope as "the man of sin". He thinks ministers should, on occasion, leave off their clerical collars and should be allowed to conduct cremations. One church member said: "God may have given Moses the Ten Commandments, but he gave Free Church ministers a further 200."

The picture that emerged in Court 2 of Edinburgh's Sheriff Court of a number of powerful ministers willing to use subterfuge and slanderous gossip to bring down one of their most highly regarded preachers has made many in the Free Church squirm.

Professor Macleod's position in the Church is unclear. He has talked about joining the Church of Scotland. If he leaves the Free Church, up to half the Church could go with him. It has only 6,000 members and 19,000 regular attendants, many of them crofters eking a living from the harsh environment of the Western Isles. Already 2,000 supporters have signed a petition backing the professor and a fund to pay his legal fees has raised more than £20,000.

STEVE FINN

DAVID ALLEN

SCOPE FEATURES

Survivors of the big purge at IMG Models: from left, Lisa Butcher, aged 24, Tyra Banks, 23, and the veteran Lauren Hutton, 52

Youth before beauty for the models 'too old at 25'

By Carol Midgley

THE most vital statistic for some models yesterday was their age. Sixty who are beyond the ripe old age of 25 have been told their services are no longer required by a major agency seeking to freshen its image.

IMG Models has decided to clear its books of many of its "older, sophisticated, more commercial girls" in an attempt to move upmarket towards the trend for younger, more "homespun" girls. But the decision raised some eyebrows yesterday in an industry whose biggest names include Christy Turlington, 26, Cindy Crawford, 30, Jerry Hall, 39, and Isabella Rossellini, who is pushing 45.

Lisa Butcher, who is with IMG, remains safe at 24 however and Tyra Banks, another of its models, is 23. Lauren Hutton, who became a Revlon girl for the second time at 50, is now 52 — more than twice as old as her employers' guideline.

The move comes weeks after model scouts were criticised for approaching girls as young as 12. Only a few months ago Laraine Ashton, the agency's former managing director, resigned after enraging women's magazines by accusing them of exploiting young models in semi-pornographic shots.

The latest decision was seen by some industry insiders as a desperate attempt to win back favour with the publications which are understood to have reduced the number of IMG models. The agency defended its decision claiming it wanted to make itself more high-profile. Its director, Soraya Burton, was reported as saying: "Our problem was that we had some older, sophisticated, more commercial girls who no longer fitted our image. We are now looking for young, homespun talent. It is mainly the ones who were 25-plus who have gone. We want to concentrate on the higher end of the market."

Other agencies said it was nonsense to have age limits. A spokeswoman for Storm whose books include Elle Macpherson, 29, and Carla Bruni, 26, said: "We start girls quite young but we keep them with us for a long time. Everything depends on how someone looks. I don't think there is a particular trend for younger models."

Carole White, managing director of the Elite modelling agency which has Linda Evangelista, 31, on its books, said IMG's move seemed "very hard". She added: "All modelling agencies are governed by what their clients want. In general they want girls from 18 to 25, but there is a huge demand for older girls which we do not particularly specialise in. But we have beautiful older girls with us."

Eight held in abuse inquiry

EIGHT people were being questioned yesterday over sex-abuse claims in an inquiry which began when a girl made allegations to a teacher.

Five men and a woman were detained when detectives and social workers executed search warrants at six homes in north Cornwall under the Protection of Children Act.

The men, aged 35 to 53, were arrested on suspicion of raping girls aged between 13 and 15. A sixth man, in his late twenties, was later arrested in north Cornwall on suspicion of similar offences and a seventh in Shropshire.

A 23-year-old woman was arrested for allegedly exposing a child to moral danger. Police said that hundreds of videos and a quantity of printed matter had been seized during the investigation.

Three children aged under four were subject to emergency protection orders and a care order had been made for a 14-year-old. A number of other children were expected to be interviewed.

Stranded sailors died as mist fell

BASIC safety equipment could have saved three men who drowned after their boat was thrown against a sandbank, a fatal accident inquiry was told yesterday.

Gerald Bruce, 58, his son Iain, 26, and Alan Jones, 50, died as they tried to walk, in thick mist, the 500 yards from their smashed and beached boat in the River Tay estuary to the shore. They and the sole survivor, Jim Miller, 45, became disorientated when the mist descended.

The amateur sailors, who were taking the newly purchased 28ft vessel from Newburgh, Fife, to their home town of Arbroath, Tayside, had no radio, lifejackets or distress flares.

Mr Miller said: "We made a joint decision to cut the corner at Gaa Sands. We saw the marker bouys but we thought they were only for big boats. We got stuck on a sandbank. Then this wave came along, lifted the boat up and dropped it. It just cracked. We jumped overboard and decided to walk to the shore. When we went into the water it was only up to our knees and it was a fine, sunny day. But then the mist came in and we just lost all direction.

"We had one lifering and we tied three plastic drums to our belts. We thought the tide would take us in but it just took us round in circles. I didn't think the water was that cold at first, but it was cold after you had been in it for a while.

"Gerry died first. He had a heart problem and was nervous from the start. When he died we did not want Iain, his son, to see him, so I made sure he was facing the other way. Then Iain died.

"I managed to get one leg out of the water, that's how I was found by the lifeboat."

John Hughan, the lifeboat coxman, said that he would expect anyone planning to make the journey to have a radio, lifejackets and preferably a liferaft. He added that a compass and navigations charts would be essential.

Sheriff Norrie Stein said that basic safety measures would have saved the men.

Father, 14, spared detention

By Lin Jenkins

A COURT yesterday decided not to impose a custodial sentence on a 14-year-old boy for a string of car crimes to give him the chance to bring up his baby daughter. The boy was given a conditional discharge for 37 offences committed before the child was born.

The youth court at Huntingdon, Cambridgeshire, had deferred sentence from January to see if the teenager, who admitted the offences, could keep out of trouble.

John Kirkpatrick, for the boy, said: "He has not offended since his last court appearance. He is training at a garage and acting as a father to his child with his partner."

The teenager stole ten cars between August and October last year, abandoning them in fenland villages. Phillip Loakes, chairman of the youth court panel, said: "This was obviously a stupid and very annoying spree for a lot of people. It affected a lot of people's lives.

"We are pleased to see that you have done something about your lifestyle. We know you have a young daughter and we hope you bring her up in a proper environment which will be free of crime."

The charges included taking a vehicle without permission and driving without a licence and insurance.

Overworked doctors desert the inner cities

By Jeremy Laurance
Health Correspondent

Doctors declared their opposition yesterday to using private capital to build NHS hospitals. They fear that shareholders' interests will override those of patients. Six NHS building projects worth *£316 million* funded by commercial organisations have been given the go-ahead under the Government's private finance initiative. Members of the BMA meeting said the schemes would *lead to the back-door privatisation of the health service,* undermining its public ethos and causing it to fragment.

MEDICAL care in the inner cities is threatened with disaster because of the exodus of doctors from the NHS, the British Medical Association said yesterday.

Doctors are turning their backs on general practice because of flagging morale, overwork and unsocial hours, and hospitals cannot recruit consultants in some specialties such as anaesthetics.

The annual conference of the association called yesterday for national action to deal with the growing recruitment crisis. One in six medical students is dropping out before they qualify and half of vocational training schemes for GPs are undersubscribed. Some estimates suggest that up to 25 per cent of doctors are not working in the NHS three years after qualifying.

At the other end of the age scale, more GPs are retiring early, with a 25 per cent drop in the number working beyond 60 in the past six years. In east London, a recruitment fair to fill 140 GP vacancies had failed to secure a single doctor, the conference was told.

Dr Ian Bogle, chairman of the BMA's GP committee, said: "With doctors not wishing to come into practice and others baling out, we are facing a disaster. There is a potential breakdown of general practice in the inner cities."

A BMA committee set up last year to examine the manpower crisis has been unable to obtain accurate figures on the workforce because they are no longer held centrally. Dr Ian Banks, a member of the committee, said that the figures that were available painted a frightening picture.

The apparent rise in the number of GPs — 4.9 per cent from 1990 to 1994 — disguised the fact that more were working part-time. This is partly accounted for by the rising number of women, who make up a third of the profession.

Dr Banks said: "Something is going very badly wrong. We are losing doctors at the older ages because of early retirement and at the younger ages because of a failure to recruit. Not only is there not enough water coming into the bucket, but it has a hole in it as well."

. Dr Banks said GPs were caught in a vicious circle as their colleagues departed and their workload increased. The conference in Brighton was told how the recruitment problem extended to hospitals. Joy Edelman, a consultant in Ilford, east London, said: "A few years ago it was a rarity to find any doctor retiring before 65. Now it is most unusual to find any that are going on to that age. 'I don't need the hassle' is the usual comment."

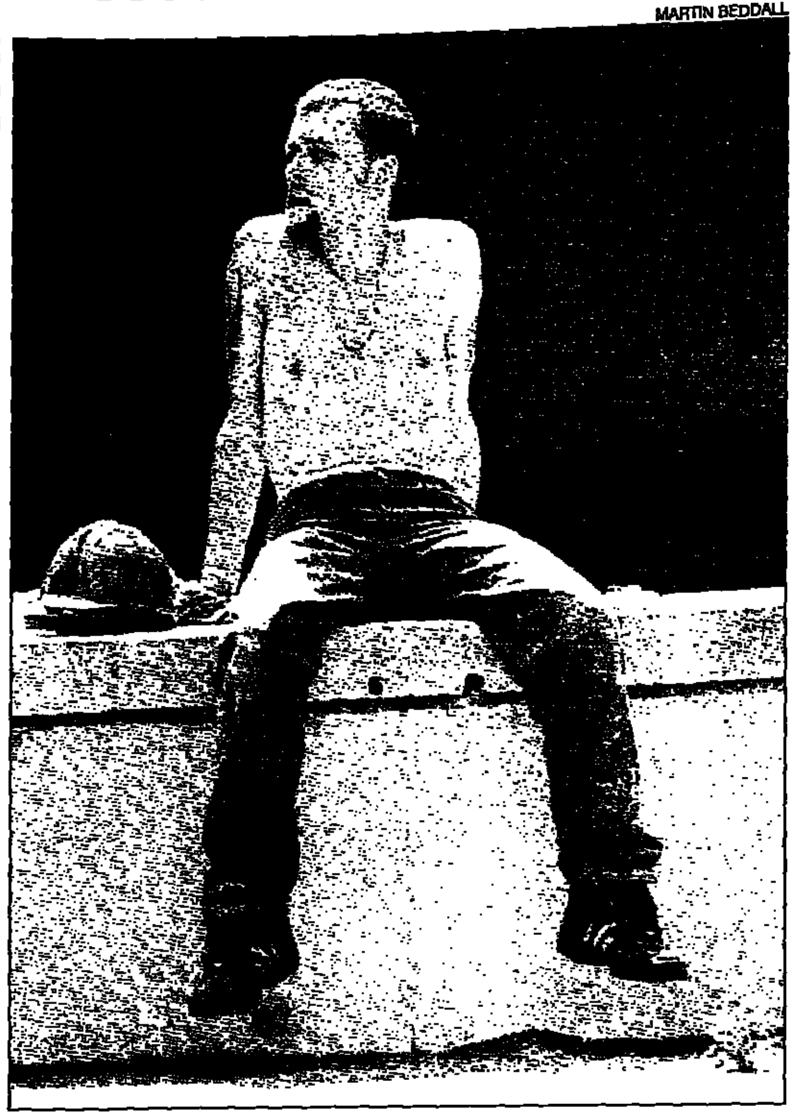
Dr David MacDonald Burns, 59, a consultant at the Royal Free Hospital in north London, who expects to retire next year, said: "The reason we want out now is because we do not feel valued. The NHS does not value continuity of experience and that is what the patients need. NHS trusts want someone cheap and quick."

Dr Michael Olver, a GP in Crewe, said that ten years ago his practice had 150 applicants for a partner's post but last year it had attracted only 12 for a similar job. "It is the worst crisis we have faced for 30 years," he said.

The Health Department said: "We don't see there is a crisis, although there are some pockets of difficulty. GP numbers continue to rise and there are sufficient to fill the vacancies."

☐ A stress counselling helpline for doctors has taken 800 calls in its first ten weeks. One in four callers to the helpline, launched by the BMA in April, said they were unable to cope with their work.

MARTIN BEDDALL



A construction worker taking a break in the London sun yesterday. Temperatures in the capital reached 26C. Forecast, page 26

Britons ignore cancer danger in quest for 'healthy' tan

By Nigel Hawkes, science editor

ACRES of bare brown skin featured in television advertisements and holiday brochures are conveying a dangerous message, psychologists said yesterday. Images such as *Baywatch* and the *Diet Coke* advertisement, showing a bricklayer stripped to the waist, reinforced the idea that a tan was healthy. But sunbathers were increasing their risk of skin cancer, including the most dangerous form, melanoma, which has doubled since 1980.

Professor Richard Eisner of Exeter University and his wife Dr Christine Eisner, director of the Cancer Research Campaign's child and family research group, visited beaches in Devon, Italy and the Canary Islands to interview holidaymakers.

They found that while the British were generally better informed about the risks of skin cancer, they were careless about protecting themselves against it. Many saw "lying on a beach sunbathing and swimming" as an ideal holiday and believed they were not personally at risk "if they kept dolloping on sun-cream".

Male outdoor workers were particularly at risk, Dr Christine Eisner told a press conference in London. Women claimed to be more prepared to protect themselves, especially with sunscreen, but at the same time appeared to enjoy sunbathing more and set a higher value on getting a tan.

Educating people about the risks was a "real problem", Dr Eisner said. The only answer was to cover up.

MEDICAL BRIEFING

Priceless results of mother care

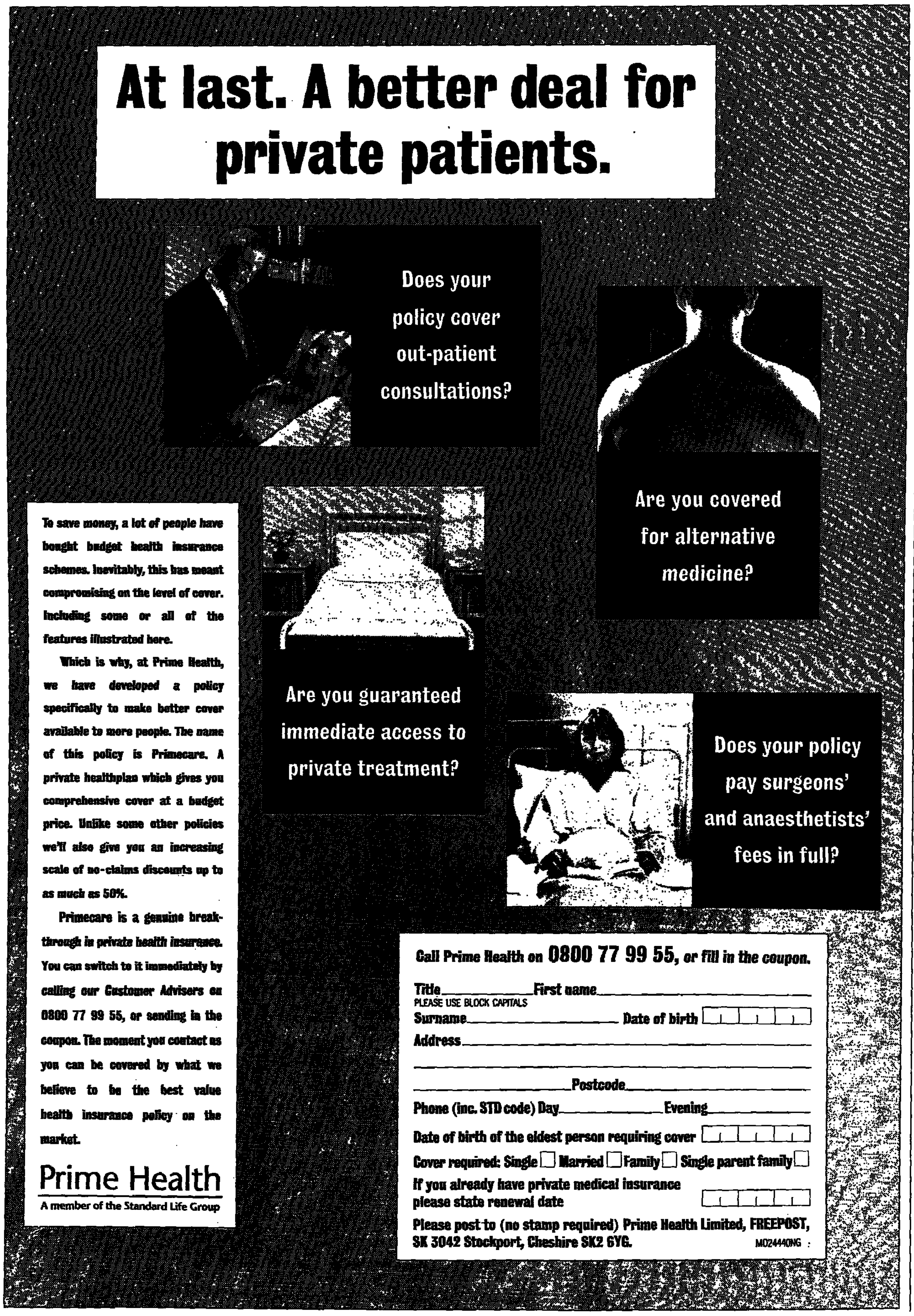
FOR nearly 60 years pregnant women have wondered why they must visit their doctor or midwife so often. The reason why the doctor takes blood, feels their abdomen to find out which way the baby is lying, counts the heart rate and from time to time orders an ultrasound is usually obvious. Why doctors display greater interest in blood pressure, looseness of rings, the tightness of shoes and the state of the urine is usually a mystery; even doctors do not fully understand changes in the placenta that lead to pre-eclampsia, and even an eclamptic fit during pregnancy, but they have learnt to dread them.

At every antenatal visit, the doctors and midwives are looking for pre-eclampsia, the rise in blood pressure, increase in the swelling in the fingers and feet and the presence of albumin in the urine, which might give the first warning. In the past an eclamptic fit nearly always meant the death of the unborn baby, and sometimes the mother died too, whether from inhalation of vomit, a stroke, kidney failure or liver complications. With assiduous care, eclamptic fits are now rare but they still kill a thousand babies and seven mothers a year.

Improvement is the result of safety drills and admission to hospital for any mother showing potential signs of serious trouble. In the past eclampsia was comparatively common. In 1959, *British Obstetric Practice* gave the incidence of as one in 600 births, and the authors felt this represented a huge advance. The ritual antenatal tests are expensive in terms of lives saved, possibly a factor in today's accountancy-led medicine, but the horror of even one unnecessary death from eclampsia, and the sadness produced by stillbirths that could have been averted, cannot be fed into any credit and debit account.

Professor Christopher Redman of Oxford University has denounced any move to reduce antenatal care. Those who remember eclamptic fits in the past will support him.

Dr Thomas Stuttaford



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Thieves take couple's memento of SAS son

By Paul Wilkinson

Captain Garthwaite: *died in action in Oman*

THE ailing mother of an SAS soldier killed in action pleaded yesterday for burglars to return her last memento of her son. The diamond, silver and enamel brooch in the shape of the SAS winged dagger cap badge was made for Elizabeth Garthwaite after her son Simon, a captain in the elite regiment, was killed in action in Oman in 1974.

It was among antique silverware and jewellery valued at £100,000 stolen from the home of Mrs Garthwaite, 78, and her husband, Peter, 80, at the weekend. The elderly couple, who need sticks to walk, were attacked and tied up by three masked men who spent an hour ransacking the house.

Police said that if Mrs Garthwaite had not struggled free and helped her husband to raise the alarm, they might not have been discovered until today, when the vicar was due to call.

In spite of their trauma, the couple appeared at a press conference yesterday to publicise the incident in the hope of catching the burglars. Mrs Garthwaite, a former petty officer in the Wrens who suffers from Parkinson's disease and is recovering from a broken hip, said: "I just want the things back, especially the brooch. My husband had it made specially in memory of my son."

Colleagues of their son said he should have been recommended for a posthumous VC for his attempt to rescue a wounded Arab soldier during a gun battle with rebels in the Mirbat desert region, but there were not enough witnesses to corroborate the report. Known to the soldiers of the Omani Sultan as "The Noble One", Captain Garthwaite was regarded with almost mystical reverence by the Arab troops, who were prepared to follow his orders without question. A passage in the unofficial history of the SAS, *Who Dares Wins*, describes how Captain Garthwaite was uncomfortable at formal Army events but was at his best out in the desert with just his fatigues and weapon.

His father, a former lieutenant-colonel with the Royal Indian Engineers who fought the Japanese in Burma in the Second World War, said he had nothing but contempt for the men who attacked them at about 9pm on Saturday as they watched television at their home near Ampleforth, North Yorkshire.

"I suddenly saw this man in a mask and a boiler suit with gloves standing at the drawing-room door. I was surprised but not frightened. We both remained calm and just waited for them to get on with what they wanted to do. We are Yorkshire-born and bred, which counts for something, and we have a strong Christian faith which sustains us."

Police believe one of the raiders had entered through a window and let the others in through a back door. They handcuffed Mr Garthwaite and took away their sticks before two of the intruders searched the house.

Mr Garthwaite, who suffered a stroke some years ago, said: "Every draw, every cupboard was turned out on the floor, our bedroom was ransacked and all of the papers in my study were strewn everywhere. They searched my wife to see if she was wearing any jewellery. They took the watch off her wrist but decided not to take her rings. They did not assault us but one of them was pretty foul-mouthed. They just told us 'Keep quiet and nothing will happen to you'."

Before the thieves fled, they used a leather strap to tie Mrs Garthwaite's hands but she struggled free and managed to cross the room to retrieve their walking sticks. "We got to the window and my husband shouted for help," she said. "The farmer next door was checking his sheep. When they started bleating he looked to see what was wrong."

JAMIE WISEMAN

Peter and Elizabeth Garthwaite: attacked at home

Action in Oman was regiment's finest hour

By Michael Evans
Defence Correspondent

THE area where Captain Garthwaite died was the location of one of the most legendary SAS actions. The small town of Mirbat, flanked on two sides by the sea, was home for the so-called British Army training team of ten SAS soldiers.

On July 18, 1972, more than 250 Marxist guerrillas of the Dhofar Liberation Front launched an attack as part of their war against the Sultan of Oman and his British advisers. Facing them were the SAS men, 30 lightly armed Askaris from northern Oman, and 25 men from the gendarmerie. They held the town until reinforcements arrived.

During the fierce battle, two SAS men were killed and two seriously injured. The guerrillas retreated, losing at least 30 dead. The battle demonstrated to the counter-guerrillas that SAS men were prepared to die for them. On April 12, 1974, Captain Garthwaite was killed trying to rescue a man pinned down by enemy fire in the Mirbat desert region.

SATURDAY IN THE TIMES

DEAD POET'S SOCIETY
Lynne Truss on the Tennyson set and the long, hot summer of 1864, in the **Magazine**

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Young says children should walk to school

By Jonathan Prynn
Transport Correspondent

THE sharp decline in the number of pupils cycling and walking to school is creating a generation of unfit and car-dependent children, Sir George Young, the Transport Secretary, said yesterday.

The proportion of junior school children who travelled to classes unsupervised had fallen from 80 per cent to 10 per cent in 20 years. Parents had to be persuaded that it was safe to let their children make their own way to school, as they had done 20 years before, Sir George told a conference in London.

Cutting the number of school runs by parents in the morning was one of the Government's transport priorities, he said. The journeys accounted for 15 to 20 per cent of morning rush-hour traffic.

Sir George said that children who were always driven to and from school suffered a loss of independence, had less opportunity to develop road sense and had less exercise. "By encouraging children to walk, cycle and use public transport to get around there is a greater likelihood of these modes being accepted as normal and desirable forms of transport in later life," he said.

He recognised that parents were worried about accidents, pollution and abduction, and said new initiatives must not alienate them. A survey of 10,000 pupils found that up to 40 per cent wanted to cycle to school but less than 10 per cent were allowed to by their parents.

Japanese eat meat from rare blue whale

By Nick Nuttall
Environment Correspondent

MEAT from the world's biggest and most endangered animal, the blue whale, is on sale in Japanese supermarkets, scientists said yesterday.

Undercover researchers using genetic fingerprinting said they had unearthed a massive illegal trade in rare and endangered whale species. They were being killed in defiance of international agreements and sold to shops and restaurants in the Far East.

The researchers, backed by the International Fund for Animal Welfare, the Whale and Dolphin Conservation Society and Earthtrust, found that almost every species of whale, including humpback, fin, Bryde's, Baird's and Cuiver's, are available, along with at least seven species of dolphin and porpoise.

DNA tests from two samples indicated they were from a blue whale, a protected species whose numbers are now fewer than 5,000 animals.

The findings, by researchers including Dr Scott Baker of the University of Auckland, and Dr Frank Cipriano of the University of Hawaii, were presented at the International Whaling Commission meeting in Aberdeen yesterday. They will intensify opposition to whaling by Japan and Norway, who claim they are catching only the small minke whales. Norway has exempted itself from the worldwide whaling moratorium and Japan continues to carry out so-called scientific whaling.

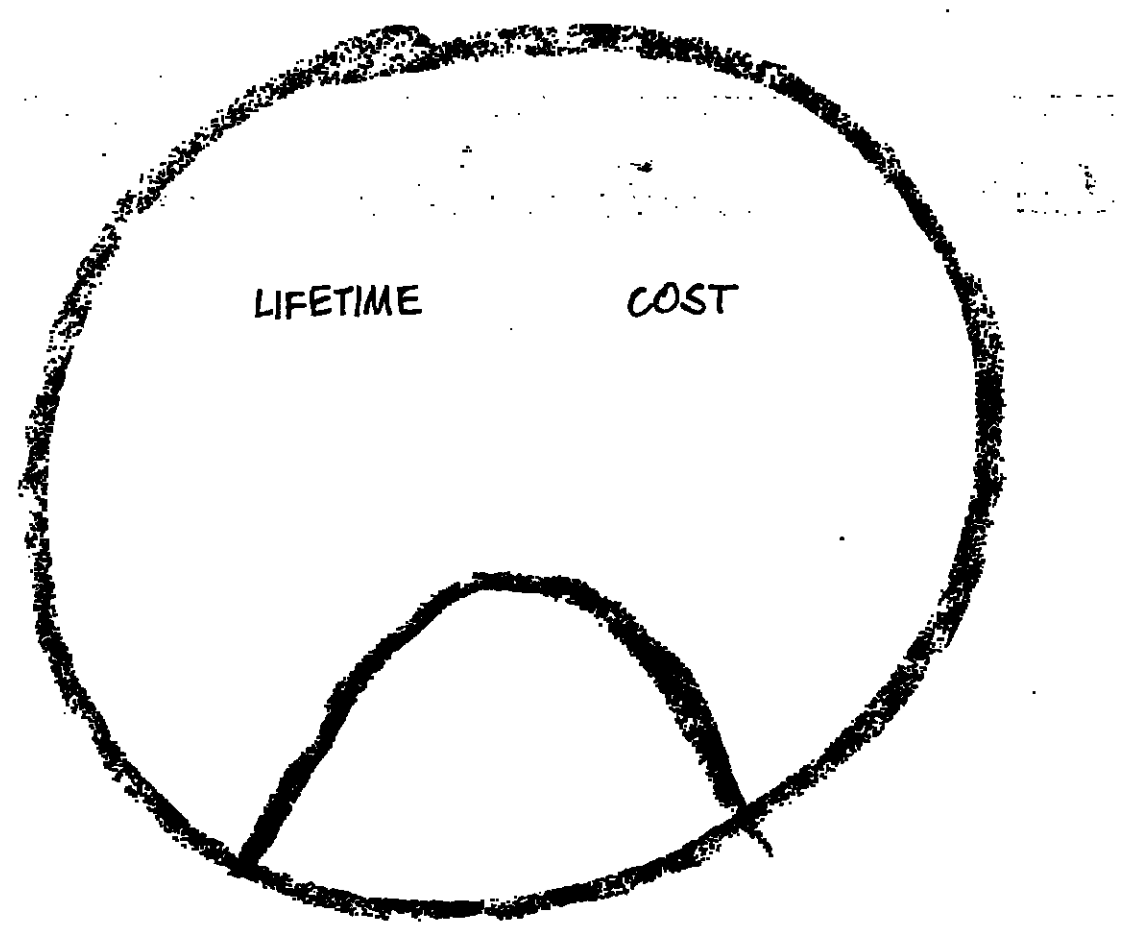
Camera's long-shot

AN UNDERWATER camera lost in the murky depths around a wreck off the Norfolk coast spent seven months at sea, travelled 500 miles and emerged in working order (Lin Jenkins writes).

Marshall Smith, an avid beachcomber from the Shetland Islands, found it in February on the uninhabited island of Hascosay.

"I saw the corner of it among the flotsam and jetsam, so I kicked it thinking it was just a piece of plastic. It was covered in seaweed and nearly green," he said. As he fiddled with the camera it took a picture. He took the film to be developed and a friend put details on the Internet.

Two days ago Mr Smith got a call from Tony Thrower in Norwich after he read about the find in *The Diver*, a magazine for enthusiasts. He lost the Japanese-made Sea and Sea Motor Marine camera last July while diving nine miles off Mundesley.



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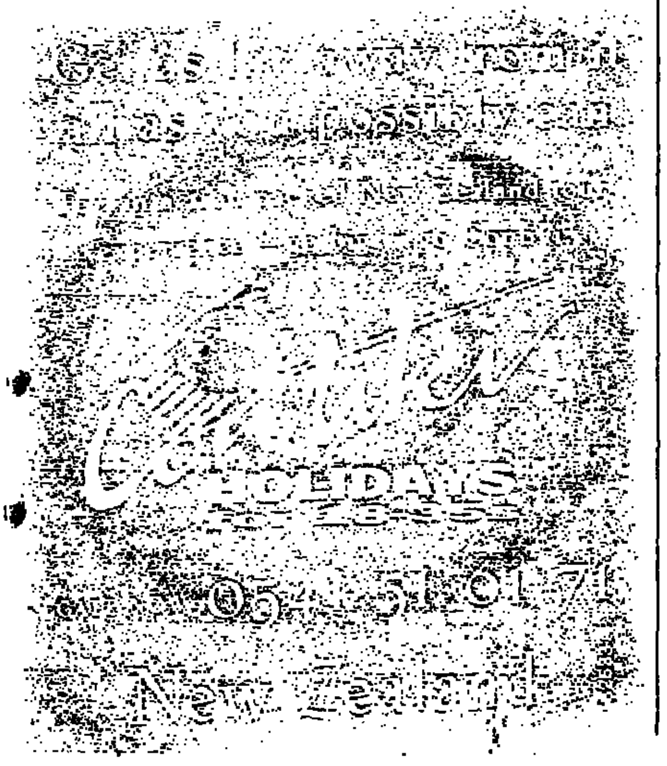


Hi-tech cheats use supermarket cards to fake credit sales

By Stewart Tendler, crime correspondent

FRAUDSTERS are gaining unexpected bargains from the new supermarket loyalty cards, police said yesterday. They are being reprogrammed with stolen details of bank accounts for use as fake "swipe cards" at petrol stations and phone boxes, where PIN numbers are not required.

Millions of the new cards are being offered to shoppers in the competition between supermarkets. In the past week, two million Sainsbury's customers have been given the new Reward cards. Tesco has more than 6.5 million holders.

The fraud involves the use of £700 card-encoding machines. The method is widely available through the Internet and police admit that they are powerless to stop information being circulated in this way. Computer-literate teenagers are believed to be involved.

The encoding machines alter the black magnetic strip on the back of the card and insert a genuine account number and expiry date bought on the black market. Account details could be gathered from a purchase receipt or from a crooked retailer.

The fake cannot be used in a shop, but it can be used for automatic machines which accept credit cards. They could also be accepted by crooked retailers claiming they thought the cards were genuine.

If the forgers manage to get access to a PIN number, they can use cash points to take money from victims' accounts. The encoding machines are also being used by fraudsters to change the numbers on their own credit cards so that transactions are credited to someone else's account.

Losses to banks and other credit card companies from all forms of counterfeit cards are put at more than £7 million a year. Detective Sergeant Peter Rowan, of the West Midlands Police fraud squad, said: "Last month alone credit card purchases in the UK topped £4 billion, so the potential for plastic card fraud is huge."

An account number and expiry date for a credit card could be bought on the black market for about £20. More sensitive information, including addresses and dates of birth, could fetch £1,000.

A spokesman for Sainsbury's said many types of cards could be altered and abuse of the loyalty cards was not regarded as a great threat. Tesco said it would introduce a system to detect when details on a magnetic strip differed from the card's appearance.

The Association for Payment Clearing Services, which represents card-issuing companies, said that by 1998 a new microchip will end the risk of counterfeits. Losses from cards are running at £80 million a year, of which £60 million comes from card thefts rather than counterfeiting and other abuses.

Puppies 'raised on filthy battery farms'

By Tim Jones

A boxer bitch kept in cramped and miserable conditions on a puppy farm and made to breed litter after litter

NEW laws are needed to stop the "evil trade" at unlicensed puppy farms, animal welfare groups said yesterday. Bitches are kept in appalling conditions and forced to breed as though they were battery machines, they said.

Some estimates suggest that as many as 70,000 puppies a year are raised unlawfully and kept in damp, cold, cramped and excrement-covered pens before being sold at a huge profit. A single litter can fetch £3,000 or more. Snatched from their mothers when less than six weeks old, puppies often develop behavioural problems and carry diseases and genetic deformities from bitches forced to breed endlessly.

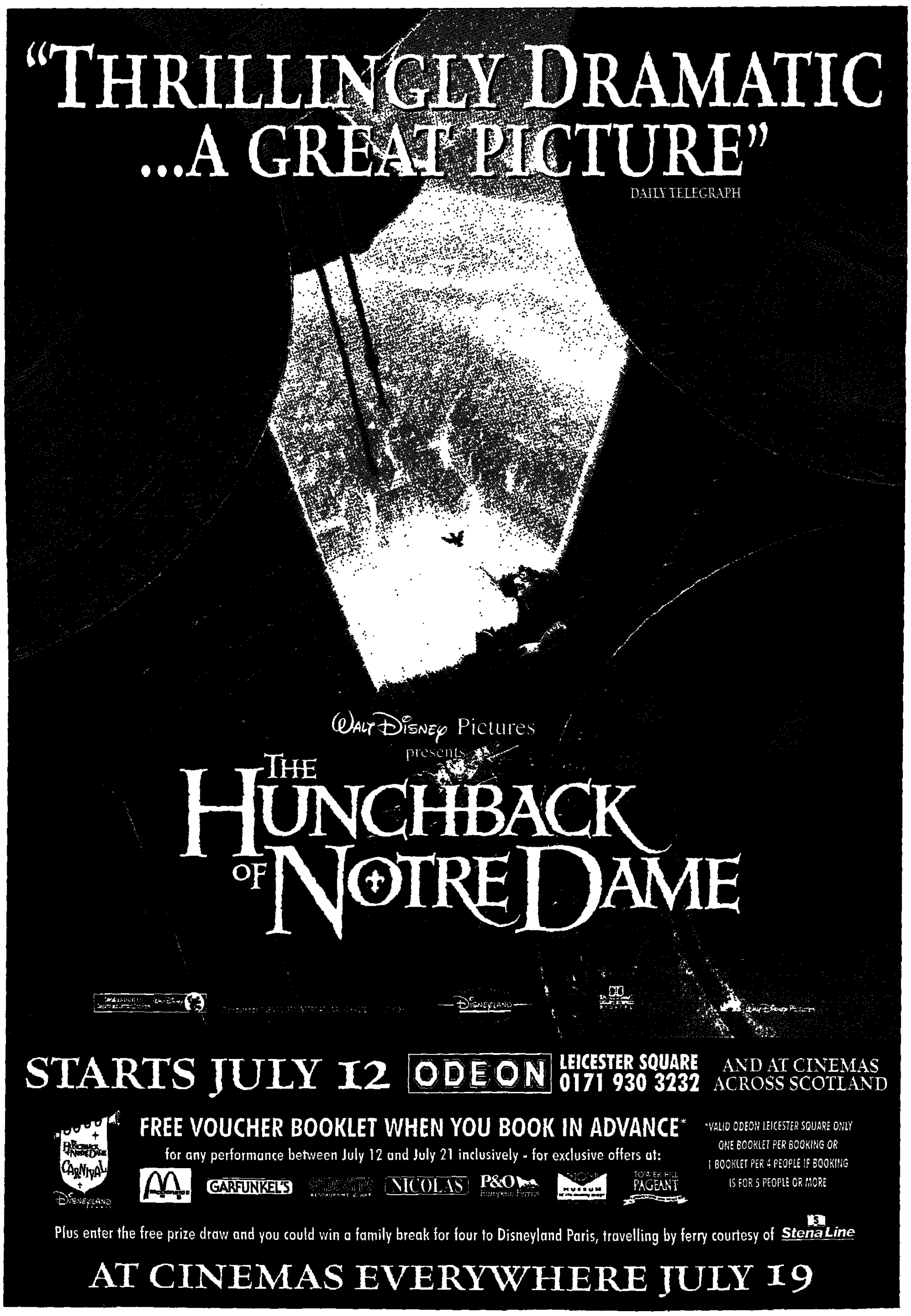
Some of the puppies are transported in small containers over long distances and may end in small cages in the Far East with false Kennel Club accreditation, a report published yesterday says. Roger Gale, MP, who chaired the puppy-farming working group, said: "Quite simply, some of the conditions on these unlicensed farms are inhumane and this is a vile and evil trade which must be stopped.

"I suspect people would be horrified if they knew the exploitation and cruelty behind their purchase." The report, which is being sent to ministers, suggests that in west Wales alone there are at least 290 illegal kennels, more than half the total. The area has become notorious for unlicensed breeding, partly because dairy farmers needed to diversify after quotas limited their milk production.

An RSPCA video shows two puppy farms in Wales in a filthy and ramshackle condition. At one farm, puppies were found huddled in the dark on a floor covered with compacted excrement. Rohan Barker of the RSPCA said: "It resembled a black hole of Calcutta."

One of the main changes to the law being sought is to give breeders their yearly licence only after premises have been inspected by a vet, rather than by planning officers. A breeding establishment should be defined as premises where more than two bitches are kept for breeding, the report says. Many breeders keep a large number of bitches but avoid the need to be licensed by claiming that only two are for breeding.

Clarissa Baldwin of the National Canine Defence League said: "This is no way to treat the nation's favourite pet."



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AT CINEMAS EVERYWHERE JULY 19

NEWS IN BRIEF

Six held over death of tourist

Police hunting the killers of a German tourist who was shot dead in a hotel robbery arrested six people in a series of raids yesterday. Johanna Czardebon, 56, was shot as she sat drinking coffee with her husband in a Bedford hotel last month.

Police said officers executed search warrants at a number of addresses in the Bedford area. A spokesman said: "The purpose of the warrants is to arrest people involved in a series of robberies in the Bedford area in the past few months and to search and recover property from those robberies." The raids involved 94 officers.

Gang victim dies

A Northern Irish tennis international who was attacked by a gang outside a pub has died in hospital. Gareth Parker, 23, was hit by a passing car as he lay in the road after the attack in Belfast at the weekend. He had severe head injuries.

Workers cleared

Two decorators accused of blackmailing a woman over an unpaid bill were cleared by an Old Bailey jury. Carlton Gayle, 33, of Clapton, east London, and Duncan Murphy, 32, of Tottenham, were said to have held a gun to her head.

L-strike off

Driving examiners' strikes due tomorrow and Friday have been called off after a deal over pay and conditions. Thousands of learners who faced postponed tests will now avoid the written section which starts on Monday.

Charlton fined

Jack Charlton was fined £30 by Hexham magistrates after being caught fishing without a licence near his home in Dalton, Northumberland. The former football manager has appeared in advertisements promoting licences.

Chester moves on

Charlie Chester, the 82-year-old broadcaster who is unable to walk or speak after a stroke seven months ago, has left hospital in Canterbury for a Variety Artists' Benevolent Fund home in Twickenham, southwest London.

Big-game hunt

A police helicopter with heat-seeking equipment is to comb the Oxfordshire countryside after a man said he saw a big cat resembling a lioness while out walking near Berrick Salome. A nearby farm has reported lost lambs.

Long-term jobless advised to start own businesses

By Dominic Kennedy
Social affairs correspondent

THE long-term unemployed should work for themselves instead of job hunting if they want to escape the dole queue, according to a report published today. Self-employment is more secure than full-time or part-time employment for people who have been out of work for more than six months.

The number of self-employed has grown faster in Britain than in any other European country since the mid-1970s, soaring by 80 per cent in two decades to 14 per cent of the workforce.

At the same time, the proportion of people moving directly from unemployment to self-employment has more than doubled, the report shows. Forty per cent of self-employed workers were previously unemployed.

"Our findings cast doubt on the assertion that self-employment is a marginal, insecure form of work, at least among those entering it from long-term unemployment," says the independent Policy Studies Institute, which studied 2,200 people for 30 months.

It was often the marketable unemployed, with better work histories and qualifications, who became self-employed, particularly in a buoyant labour market, the report shows. Men were likely to have good work records and women to be qualified.

A degree proved a liability to the self-employed. Graduates earned 44 per cent less than the unqualified. The only qualifications which added to incomes were those below O-level standard.

The most valuable possession was a driving licence, although a wife was also helpful as a source of free labour, and a house for financial security.

Men were attracted to self-employment by hopes of higher wages but did not earn any more than people in full-time employment. The self-employed earned more than part-timers but self-employed women earned less than full-timers.

The Department of Social Security, which commissioned the report, said it would continue to encourage people into self-employment using the benefit system.

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Terminal Five plans unveiled on day 162 of Heathrow inquiry

By Harvey Elliott, air correspondent

ONE hundred and sixty-one days after it started, the public inquiry into the building of a fifth terminal at Heathrow airport learnt for the first time yesterday what it could actually look like.

The architect John Young, of the Richard Rogers Partnership, unveiled a portfolio of drawings and computer generated images that looked not unlike a railway station. He admitted that the soaring glass domes of stations ranging from Grand Central in New York to Brighton had all influenced the plans.

Mr Young told the inquiry: "One of my guiding principles has been to design a contemporary equivalent of the great 19th-century railway stations which added a heroic element to travel by a breathtaking use of light and space."

His evidence, presented to an almost empty hall in the Ramada Hotel at the start of the 162nd day, was the highlight of an inquiry that seems certain to drag on until the end of next year. It is likely to be the longest, costliest and most contentious ever held in Britain.

It has also sharply divided the millions of people living to the west of London. Airlines, the airport owner BAA, and millions of international business passengers say that the £1 billion terminal, which will double Heathrow's capacity, is essential if Britain is to remain the hub for travellers from around the world heading into Europe. Without it, they say, London's position as a centre of finance and commerce will dwindle and major airlines such as British Airways could be forced out, leaving Heathrow to become no more than a regional airport feeding passengers to a centre on the Continent.

Rubbish, say local authorities and protest groups. They believe the terminal will create intolerable noise, overcrowded roads but no more jobs, and would destroy the environment while giving nothing to Britain.

Listening to the arguments alongside Heathrow's main runway is Roy Vandermeer, QC. So far the inquiry has stretched over the past 13 months and he predicts that it will be another 18 months at least before the last of the hundreds of witnesses have been heard. He will take another year to produce his report and the Government will take another six months at least to decide whether it agrees with him or not.

The likelihood is that even if all goes according to plan — the inquiry has slipped at least a year behind the original estimate — it will be close to the turn of the century before BAA knows whether it can proceed.

By the time the fifth terminal is fully operational, about 2016, BAA hopes that at least half the 80 million passengers who will then be using the airport will arrive by rail. The Terminal Five platform will be alongside the check-in area.

In the meantime, an average of 12 expensive lawyers, together with a handful of witnesses and local people, sit and listen to the arguments. They are now on topic three, the detailed plans. There are ten topics and up to 2,500 possible witnesses. The best estimates are that the inquiry will have cost well over £10 million by the time it ends.

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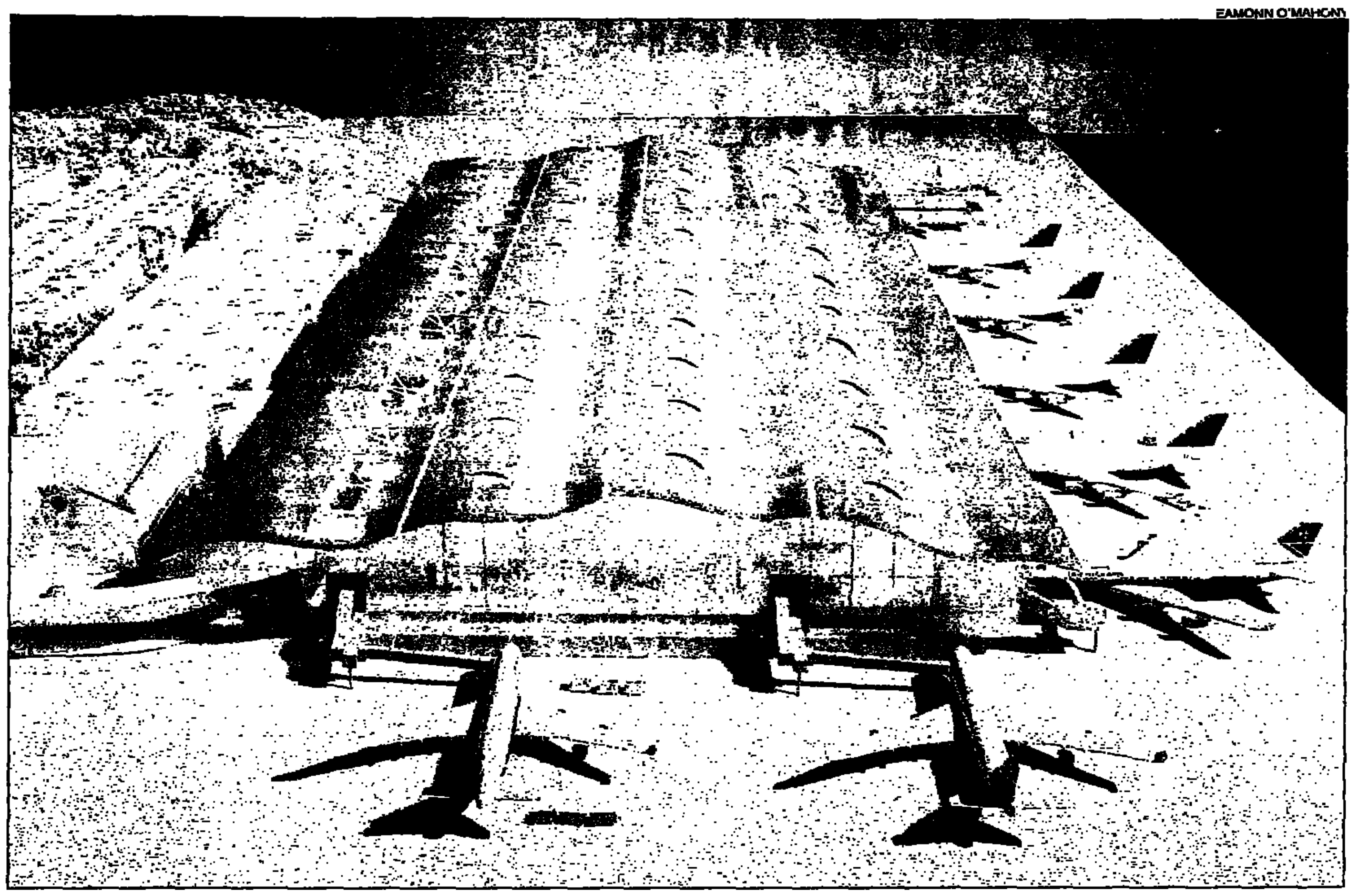


The new terminal, which will double Heathrow's capacity, was designed as "a contemporary equivalent of the great 19th-century railway stations"

High-rise design overlooks Windsor

By Marcus Binney

PASSENGERS at the new Terminal Five at the west end of Heathrow's runway could find themselves with a grandstand view of Windsor Castle. The proposed departure concourse is 20 metres above ground level, higher than any existing British terminal.

Far from committing an act of *lèse-majesté* by blighting views from the castle, the architect John Young may improve them. He says the bulk of the terminal would be shielded by a series of luxuriantly planted car parks stepped up in tiers towards the departure level.

The architects have also sought to soften the bulk of the design, which rises to a height of 40 metres and measures 400 by 250 metres. A waveform roof oversails the glass walls in all directions. The sweeping canopy over the departure drop-off point is shown projecting a staggering 25 metres beyond the building without column supports.

The design also shows two freestanding satellites linked by underground "people movers" and an 85-metre control tower that would be a new London landmark in itself.

Mr Young says: "From the moment a traveller leaves the M25, the roof of the terminal will be visible, floating above a plateau of landscaping."

The control tower: 85 metres high

The roof would be likely to have a silver grey or pewter finish, with four wide bands of continuous rooflights bringing daylight to all parts of the interior.

Passengers arriving by public transport would make a stately ascent up banks of open escalators which have been a feature of other Rogers buildings — notably the Pompidou Centre in Paris and the Lloyd's building in London — with views across the largest internal atrium that the Richard Rogers Partnership has yet designed.

Canberra, liner that went to war, retires

By Michael Evans, defence correspondent

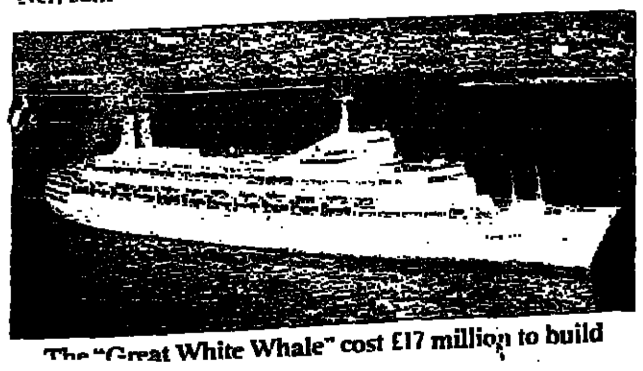
THE *SS Canberra* cruise liner which, with the *QE2*, ferried thousands of British troops to the Falklands in 1982, is to end her sailing days next year.

Canberra's demise as a cruise ship was announced by P&O Cruises. After 36 years' service, the 44,807-tonne ship may be turned into a floating hotel or visitor centre, or scrapped. Built at a cost of £17 million, *Canberra* was the largest postwar British passenger ship at the time of her launch and became known affectionately as the Great White Whale.

The image of the cruise ship was transformed when the Government made the dramatic decision to requisition *Canberra* as a troop-carrying vessel for the Falklands and later as a hospital ship during the fighting. Less than a week after cruising in the Mediterranean she was off to war, with swimming pools boarded over, sundecks crammed with boxes of ammunition, and two helicopter pads installed.

Canberra left for the South Atlantic on Good Friday, April 9, 1982, packed with more than 3,000 marines and paratroopers and the Band of Commando Forces, Royal Marines, to entertain the troops. When she sailed home to Southampton in July 1982, filled once again with troops, she was greeted by thousands of people waving flags and cheering in one of the most emotional scenes ever witnessed.

P&O Cruises said *Canberra* would end her career on September 30 next year after a final round-the-world voyage between January and April and a Mediterranean cruise in September. She has sailed more than three million miles and carried nearly a million cruise passengers. *Canberra* will be replaced by the 63,500-tonne *Star Princess*, to be renamed *Arcadia*.



The "Great White Whale" cost £17 million to build

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Shephard to make every school consider selection

By John O'Leary
and David Charter

ALL comprehensive schools will be required to consider the introduction of selective admission policies annually as part of the Government's drive to increase choice in state education.

A new breed of specialist schools, concentrating on sport and the arts, will also be encouraged to help parents to find a school to suit their children's talents.

Gillian Shephard, the Education Secretary, told MPs that legislation to be introduced in the autumn would clear the way for more selective schools and give comprehensives freedom to establish grammar streams without local authority or ministerial approval.

Under plans published in a White Paper yesterday, Grant-maintained schools will be able to select 50 per cent of their pupils, specialist colleges 30 per cent, and local authority comprehensives 20 per cent. Governors of secondary schools will be required to make an annual decision on whether to introduce selection.

But Mrs Shephard said there would be no return to a two-tier system of grammar schools and secondary moderns. Comprehensive schools would be encouraged to play to their strengths and specialise in a variety of areas. Sports and arts colleges, which would cover the performing arts, the fine arts, media, and technology, would run on the same lines as the language and technology schools already established by the Government.

The White Paper also contains proposals to increase opting out. Grant-maintained schools will be allowed to expand by up to 50 per cent if they are over-subscribed, although additional funding will be available only in areas of rising population.

In such areas, the Funding Agency for Schools will be empowered to establish new GM (grant-maintained) schools even if few others have opted out. At present, the agency can make proposals on school admissions only when 10 per cent of pupils are in opted-out schools.

Future ballots on opting out will be scrutinised by independent monitors. The new ballot observers are intended to cut the number of votes contested after claims of abuse in the often bitter local campaigns.

Local authority schools will also acquire greater self-government. Education authorities will have to delegate 95 per cent of school budgets to their governors, rather than the present 85 per cent.

Although legislation will not be possible until an after an election, the Department for Education and Employment said the move would give schools an extra £600 million, or £100 per pupil, to spend as they wished. Labour is also committed to increasing the proportion of funds delegated to schools.

Mrs Shephard said that her proposals would raise standards by securing the best possible match between what schools offered and what parents wanted. In future, towns might have a grammar school, a specialist college, and a comprehensive existing side by side. She accused opposition parties of supporting an out-dated, monolithic education system, while the Government offered parents greater choice.

But Labour said only one pupil in 20 would benefit from grammar schools, while others were consigned to secondary moderns. Far from giving parents greater choice, the effect would be to allow schools to choose their pupils.

Methods of selection, both in the new grammar schools and in grammar streams, will be a matter for local discretion. The City Technology Colleges Trust has commissioned research to produce tests of aptitude for specialist colleges. Academic selection will be by test or interview.

Head teachers and teacher unions had nothing but condemnation for the selection proposals. Doug McAvoy, general secretary of the National Union of Teachers, said: "Parents will be denied a place when their child is rejected by the school of their choice. Schools will choose the children they believe will improve their league table positions. This crazy proposal will mean children denied a place at their local school will have to travel miles instead."

Nigel de Gruchy, general secretary of the National Association of Schoolmasters and Union of Women Teachers, said: "It is deeply damaging to chop and change the structure of the education service at every generation. The priority should be to make the present overwhelmingly comprehensive system work as well as it can. Privately Gillian Shephard must be hoping she will never have to implement any of the zany ideas put forward in the White Paper."

The Secondary Heads Association said that the document was a "muddled compromise" that would lead to a haphazard and incoherent pattern of schools and do nothing to raise standards. John Dunford, the president, said: "There is no research evidence to support this policy. It is based on a political philosophy, not on the reality of the current situation."

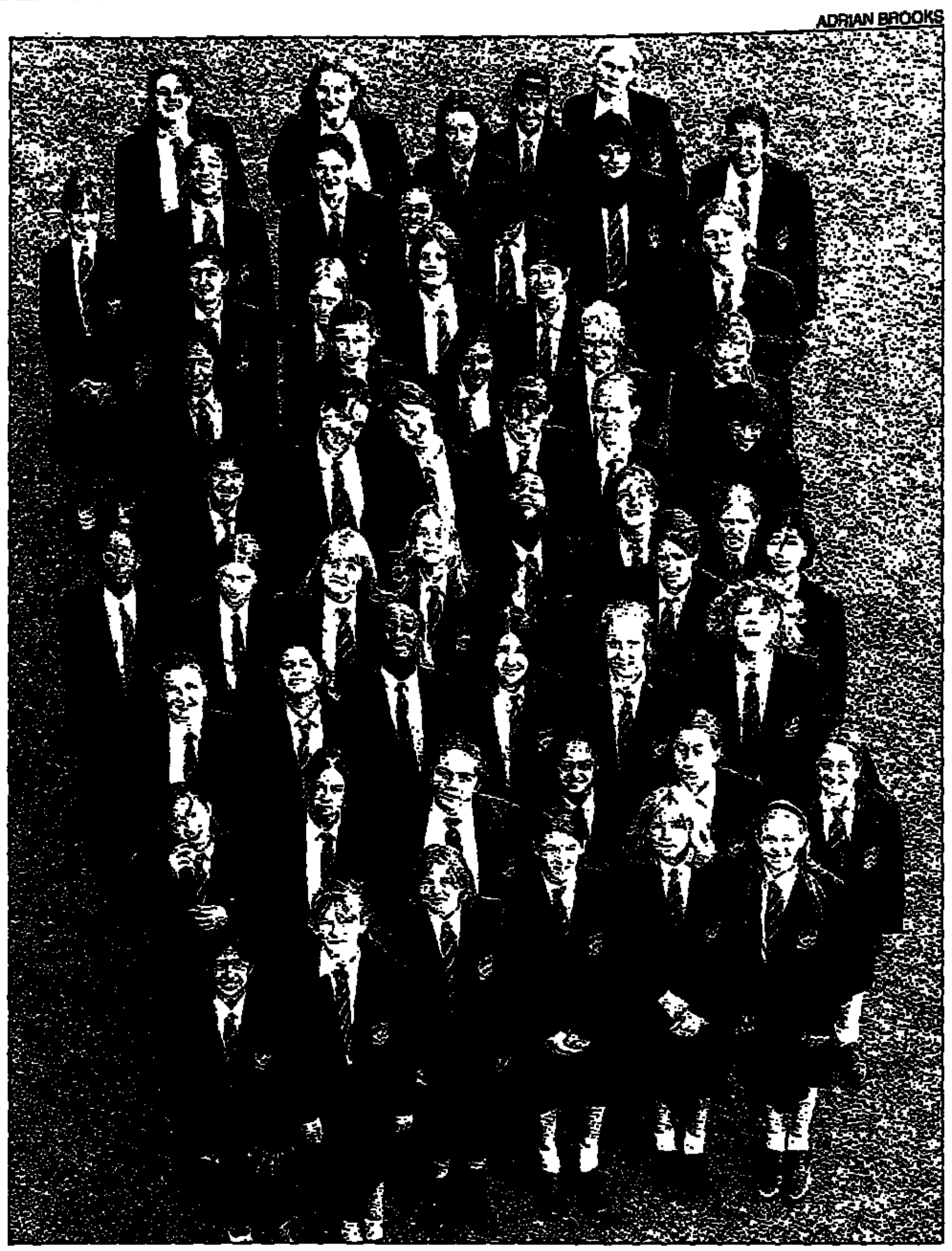
The National Association of Head Teachers said that sink schools and a rising underclass would be created by more selection.

Simon Jenkins, page 20
Leading article, page 21

THE MAIN POINTS

- ☐ Grant-maintained schools will be free to select half their pupils
- ☐ Local authority schools will be able to select one in five pupils
- ☐ Up to 75 schools are to specialise in sport or the arts next year
- ☐ All comprehensives must consider selection annually
- ☐ Popular grant-maintained schools will be allowed to expand rolls by 50 per cent
- ☐ The Funding Agency for Schools can build schools in any area
- ☐ Grant-maintained schools to be given freedom to open nurseries or sixth forms
- ☐ Local authorities must pass on 95 per cent of education budgets to schools

ADRIAN BROOKS



Pupils from the grammar stream at the comprehensive Reading Girls' School

Pioneering comprehensive welcomes bigger challenge

By David Charter
and John O'Leary

THE first comprehensive school in the country to introduce a grammar school stream yesterday welcomed the chance to increase its number of bright pupils.

The Reading Girls' School, formerly Southlands, caused a stir in 1993 when it won approval to admit 30 pupils a year by examination. Far from opening the floodgates of a return to academic selection, as many predicted, just five more grant-maintained schools have followed its example.

About 100 girls take tests in November to try for a place in the selective stream the following September. The girls are also tested when they start school to place them in ability sets for every subject. The sets are reviewed annually.

In 1992, just 14 per cent of the girls achieved five or more grades A to C at GCSE. By 1995, this had risen to 19 per cent, but the school is hoping for a bigger improvement when the first selective year takes GCSEs in 1998.

Clare Hallows, head teacher, denied that partial selection had diluted the school's comrehensive ethos. "We are fully comprehensive," she said. "We have girls of all ability levels, from the extremely bright to those with learning difficulties."

In Penrith, Cumbria, the first grant-maintained comprehensive to become a grammar school is thriving but the scars of the selection debate are still visible. Queen Elizabeth Grammar School regained its status two years ago after an acrimonious dispute.

The neighbouring Ullswater Community College complained that it would become a secondary modern school in all but name, and 70 people and organisations made formal objections to the change. The grammar school believes opinion is shifting many who opposed the change remain unconvinced.

Colin Birnie, the head teacher, said: "The system works well here, but I would not advise everybody to jump on the bandwagon. It will not necessarily be appropriate in other towns."

Head teachers examine new option with great caution

By Kyle Smith, John O'Leary and David Charter

FORMER grammar schools transformed by the comprehensive revolution in the 1960s and 1970s showed little appetite yesterday for a return to selective status.

More than 1,100 grammars disappeared after Labour decided in 1965 to create comprehensive schools in every town. In England 162 grammar schools remain. Scotland and Wales have none.

Some chose to become independent or direct-grant schools to maintain their tradition of selection, but most became comprehensives or sixth-form colleges.

Martin Roberts, head teacher of **The Cherwell School** in Oxford, which became comprehensive 23 years ago, said: "We're the sort of school that the Government would like to move, but we definitely won't." He said that the White Paper proposals were "so distant from anything that should be national priorities. It is absolutely lunatic."

King Edward VII School, once Sheffield's most famous grammar school, has no wish to return to selection. Michael Lewis, the head teacher, said: "We think that the issue is the challenge of educating all our children to the highest possible levels, and we cannot see how these proposals will achieve that."

At **Hinchingbrooke School** in Huntingdon, parents rejected selection when consulted recently. Peter Downes, the head teacher, said parents wanted to retain a wide spread of ability in the school.

However, Chris Penter, head of the grant-maintained **Fairfield High School for Girls** in Droylsden, said that the comprehensive would consider reverting to its pre-1975 grammar status. "Certainly there is a heavy demand in the local area."

Geoffrey Fallows, head of **The Camden School for Girls** in London, a grammar until 1976, said that it chose five children on the basis of their aptitude for music but had no plans for further selection.

The Greycoat School in London, a comprehensive since 1979, is oversubscribed but does not select on the basis of ability. Flavia Lambert, the acting deputy head, said: "All we are concerned about is having an equal number across the ability range."

Ken Williams, head of **Marlwood School** in Gloucestershire, a comprehensive since 1972, said he would resist even partial selection. "Times have moved on. Our community — our customers, if you will — would not want us to revert to grammar school status."

The City of Leicester School, a comprehensive since 1976, opposes selection. Bryan Lewis, the head, said: "I am satisfied we have a comprehensive school here that embraces all types, sizes, shapes, colours, and we are the better for it."

Kevin McAleese, head of **Harrogate Grammar School**, said it was likely to remain comprehensive, as it has been since 1973, because of the demands of parents.

There was no interest in selection at **The King James's School** in Knaresborough, North Yorkshire, the grant-maintained **Bingley Grammar School**, or **Bellevue Boys School** in Bradford. All three have been comprehensives for at least 20 years.

Ann Gregory, deputy head of **The Hillcrest School**, Birmingham, a grammar until 1973, said: "We are very successful as a comprehensive school and very committed to comprehensive education."

Priory School, in Portsmouth, Hampshire, was The Portsmouth Southern Grammar School for Girls until turning comprehensive 21 years ago. Bryan Davies, head teacher, said: "One or two governors may regret the passing of the grammar schools but the majority view would be to remain comprehensive."

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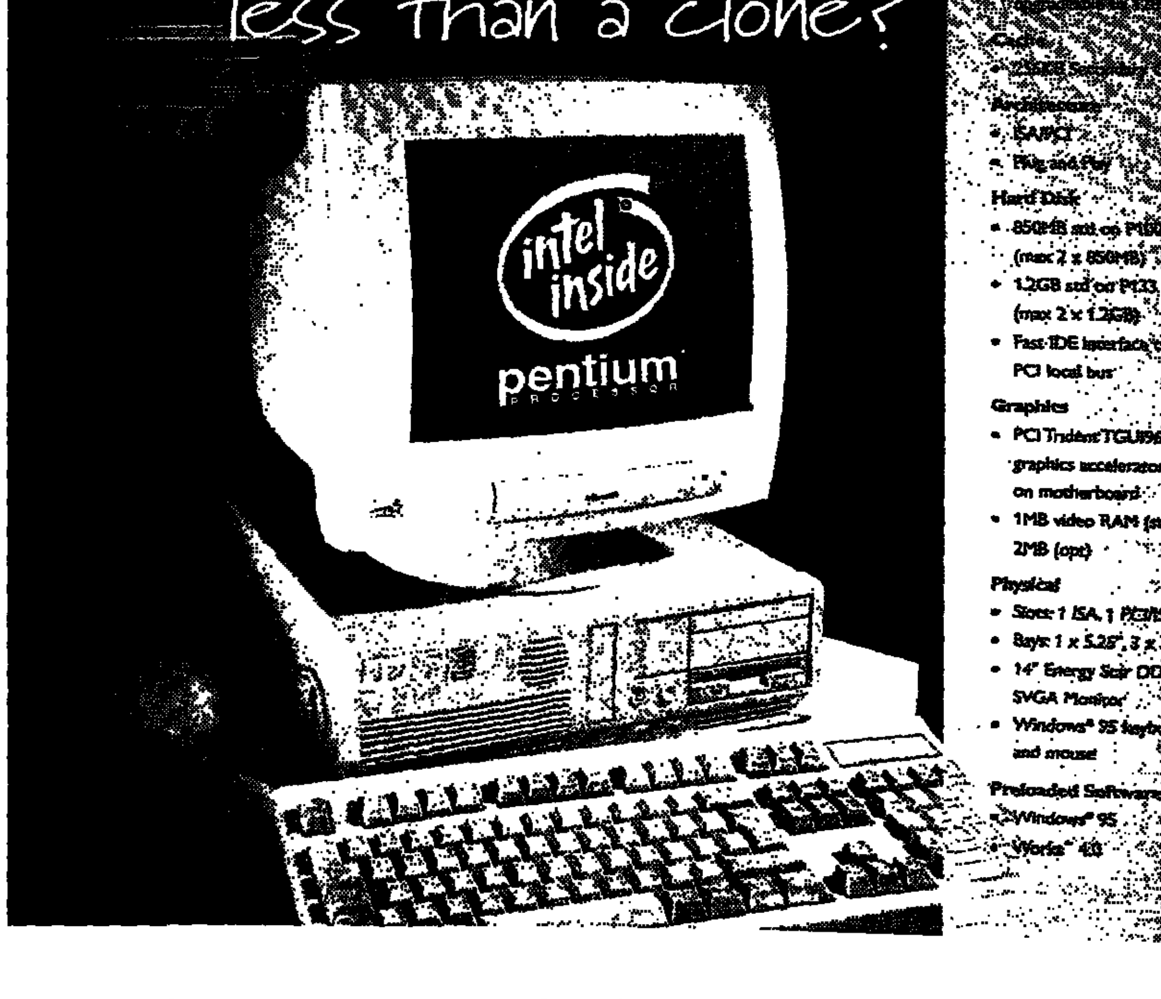

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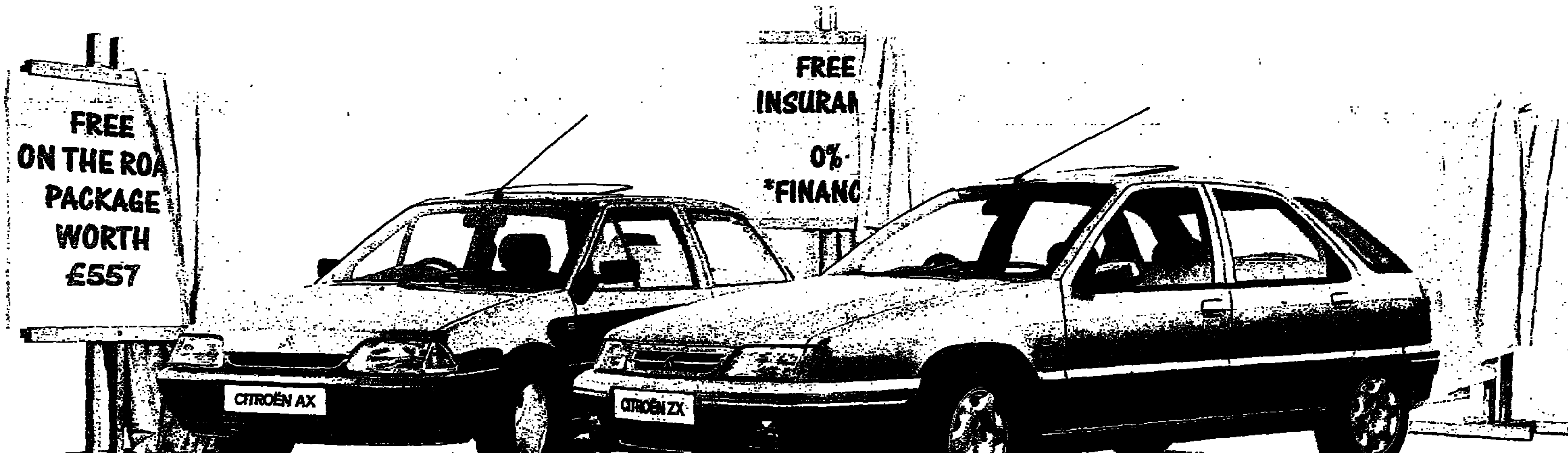

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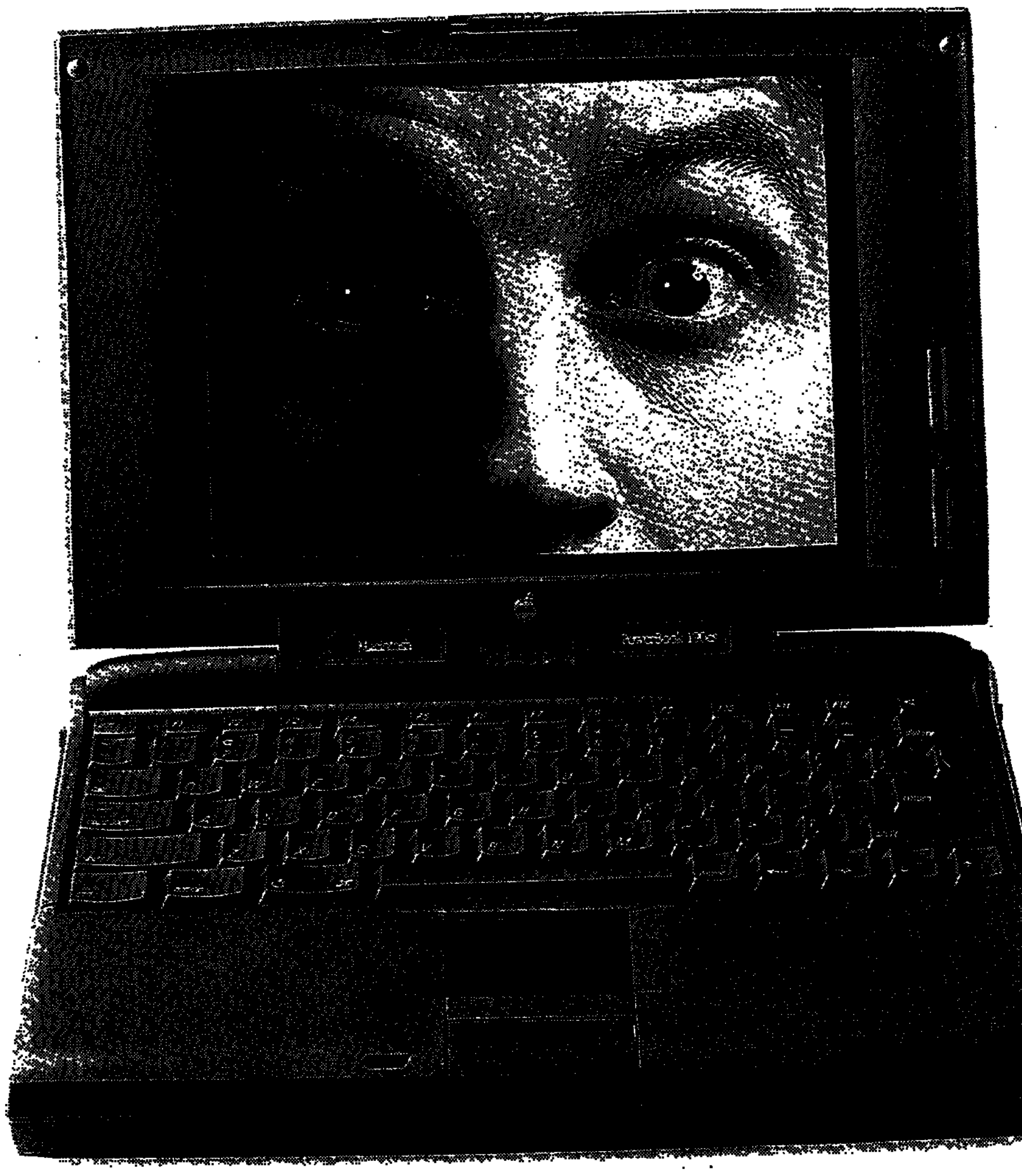

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صورة من الأصل

Blair says he is prepared to press nuclear button

By Michael Evans and Jill Sherman

TONY BLAIR confirmed yesterday that he would be prepared to authorise a nuclear attack.

Announcing the foreign policy and defence strategy to be adopted by a Labour government, Mr Blair said he would retain the four-boat Trident ballistic missile force and that he would not shrink from using it. He described the responsibility as "awesome".

At a press conference, the Labour leader was asked under which circumstances would he authorise the use of nuclear weapons. He replied: "These are enormously difficult decisions but yes, you have to envisage circumstances in which your nuclear deterrent can be used, but I don't think it is ever sensible for a Prime Minister to spell out those circumstances."

He said that a Labour government would carry on working for nuclear disarmament, but added: "I believe in retaining our nuclear capability. That is important while we have a nuclear threat in the rest of the world."

Later Robin Cook, Shadow Foreign Secretary, who was once a member of the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament (CND), told BBC Radio he was relieved that he would not have to decide whether to launch a nuclear attack. However, he said: "There is no point in retaining Trident if you say you are not going to press the button under any circumstances, and therefore the answer that was given this morning is a perfectly understandable and correct one."

When enough progress had been made towards global disarmament, a Labour government would be willing to include Britain's Trident into multinational negotiations, he said.

In a foreign policy and defence document, *A Fresh Start for Britain, Labour's Strategy for Britain in the Modern World*, Labour accused the Government of failing to rise to the challenges of the post-Cold War era. The series of defence cuts had resulted in the "creation of a damaging gap between commitments and resources".

Mr Blair declined, however, to say whether Labour would be prepared to cut back on commitments or capabilities to help the overstretched Armed Forces. He did not want to prejudge the findings of the strategic defence review that Labour would set up soon after taking office.

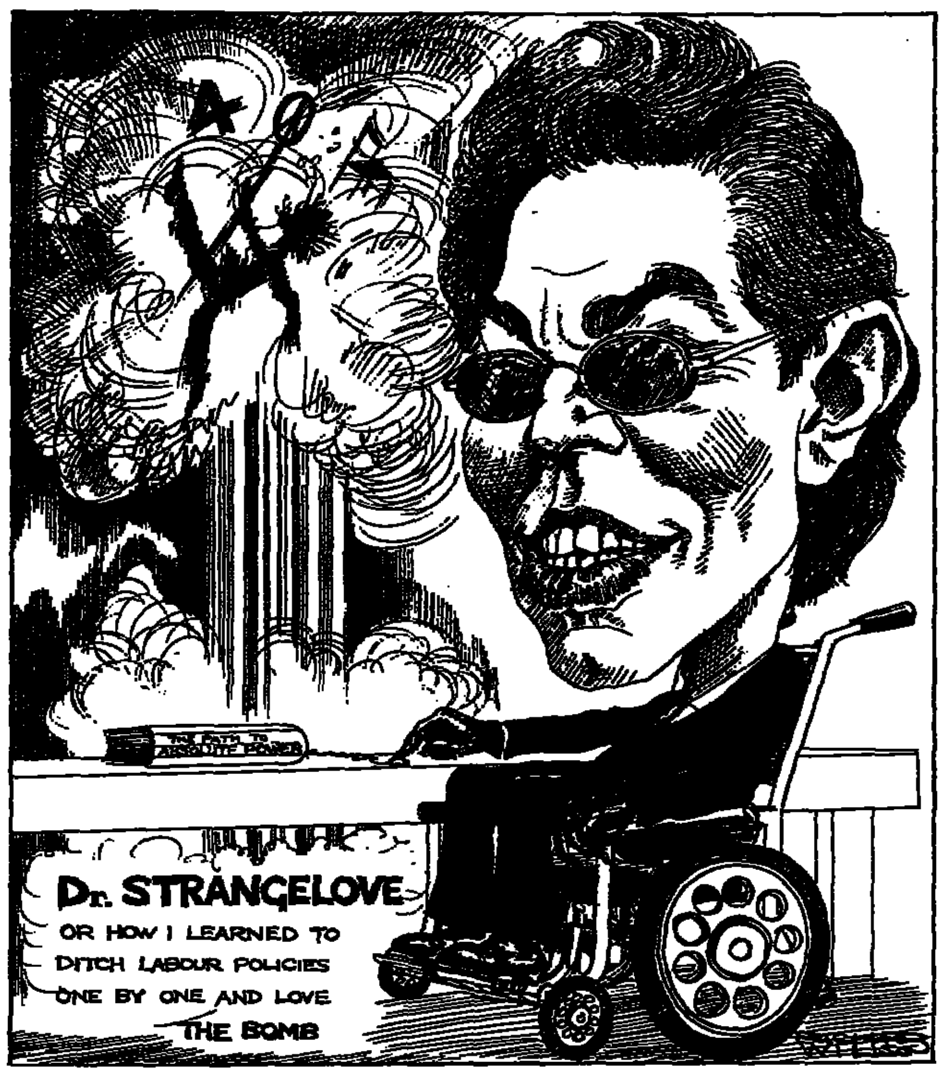
Yesterday Mr Blair also promised to restore Britain's credibility in Europe by ending the Tory "slide towards isolationism" and adopting a more positive attitude. But he emphasised that he would take a "hard-headed" look at the economic practicalities of joining a single currency. He reiterated that the public would be consulted either through a referendum or through a general election.

That commitment, however, was omitted from the party's policy document and Mr Blair refused to confirm whether it would appear in the election manifesto.

Mr Cook performed a similar balancing act. "We don't know whether the question will arise in the next Parliament or the Parliament after that," he said. "It is premature to judge whether it would be decided by a general election. The test of whether or not Britain is ready to sign up to EMU must be based on convergence in the real economic world, including industrial output, investment in skills and training."

Mr Blair renewed Labour's promise to adopt the EU's social chapter of workers' rights and said that he would consider extending qualified majority voting into areas such as social, industrial, regional and environmental policy. But the policy document makes clear that this would not include areas relating to taxation or social security. A national veto would also be maintained on foreign policy, external border controls and treaty changes.

Under the Tories, Britain had lost influence and been increasingly marginalised "not only in Europe, but also in the other international bodies to which we belong", he said. "They have no proper idea of Britain's place in the world and they are sliding towards isolationism."


THE PATH TO ABSOLUTE POWER
Dr. STRANGELOVE
OR HOW I LEARNED TO DITCH LABOUR POLICIES ONE BY ONE AND LOVE THE BOMB
WILES

Sceptics demand Tory rule changes

By James Landale

EURO-SCEPTIC Tory MPs demanded an overhaul of party rules yesterday to give local associations greater influence over government policy at the annual conference.

The MPs said that ministers must be forced to listen to the party membership. Their call for what would be an extraordinary change in the method of Tory policymaking came as research showed that the rank and file are growing more Euro-sceptic.

Martin Ball, who did the research for the anti-Europe Bruges Group, accused Conservative Central Office of rigging the party conference to block debates on the EU.

John Wilkinson, MP for Ruislip-Northwood, said the party sought to avoid dissent by choosing only bland motions. "Conference debates should be a mechanism for influencing party policy."

Christopher Gill, MP for Ludlow, said: "There is a point at which the members of the party will not accept the stage management."

Major and Straw to join battle on constitution

By Alice Thomson, Political Reporter

THE battle for Britain's constitution will begin today when John Major and Jack Straw deliver speeches setting out their party's positions on devolution and the House of Lords.

The Prime Minister has become convinced that the constitution is one of the few areas on which the Tories are united and on which there is clear blue water between the parties.

In a speech tonight to the right-wing Centre for Policy Studies, Mr Major will warn the voters that if they elect Tony Blair Britain will be irrevocably split by Labour's plans for Scottish and Welsh assemblies. He will say that the plans would also give more power to Brussels.

He will argue that Labour's proposals to turn the House of Lords into an elected chamber are "shambolic" and will succeed only in creating a giant quango. He will also give warning that Parliament could be bogged down by messy constitutional Bills for years.

He will explain that Britain's constitution is the envy of countries around the world and that it would be dangerous to tinker with it. He will also reject the idea of a written constitution or a new Bill of Rights that would shift more power to the judiciary, saying: "I do not believe we can enshrine the British conception of freedom in a single piece of legislation."

But he will propose further reforms to the working of Parliament, including the introduction of two-year sessions.

Mr Straw, the Shadow Home Secretary, will retaliate with a speech to the constitutional reformists at Charter 88. He will say that the Tories, far from acting as guardians, have failed to safeguard the constitution. Instead they have surreptitiously introduced changes that have meant a substantial shift of power from the regions to Westminster, quangos and privatised companies. He will also call for a freedom of information Act and an independent national statistical service that cannot be manipulated by ministers.

Labour's plans have been criticised by a group of expert constitutionalists as ill-thought-out. The Constitution Unit, which published reports yesterday on the implications of devolution in Scotland, Wales and the regions, suggested that Mr Blair's proposals will be feasible only if he makes fundamental changes.

The unit, which is independently funded, admitted that there was a powerful body of feeling for devolution especially in Scotland and that proposals for a Scottish parliament were "perfectly viable". But it was more critical of plans for Wales and the regions.

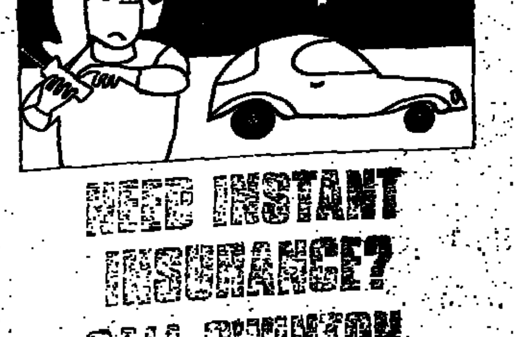
Their reports say that Labour would probably have to reduce the number of Scottish and Welsh MPs in Westminster and should scrap the positions of Welsh and Scottish Secretaries of State. They criticise the proposals for Wales saying that without lawmaking powers the assembly would be ineffectual.

On the English regions, the unit says that there is little demand for directly elected regional government. Labour's plans to start with indirectly elected regional chambers need "more flesh on their bones" and the party would have to commit itself to legislation.

Goerge Robertson, Shadow Secretary of State for Scotland, said: "Labour's proposals are sensible, practical and democratic. They will be good for the State and bind Britain together rather than drive it apart."

IN PARLIAMENT

TODAY in the Commons: debates on an Education and Employment Select Committee report on right to work and workfare; Treasury Select Committee report on Private Finance Initiative; backbench debates; education and employment questions; Labour-initiated debate on bureaucracy and patient care in the National Health Service. In the Lords: Prisoners' Earnings Bill, committee; Treasure Bill; Criminal Procedure and Investigations Bill, Commons amendments; Sexual Offences (Conspiracy and Incitement) Bill, committee.



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Papa is no help. Now he knows both models have front seat belt pretensioners, side impact protection and driver's airbag (optional on the Oasis), he's happy whatever his daughter decides.

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Lebed purges generals loyal to sacked Grachev

FROM THOMAS DE WAAL IN MOSCOW

RUSSIA'S new security boss, Aleksandr Lebed, purged seven generals from the Defence Ministry yesterday in his first big shake-up since being appointed to the Kremlin.

The sackings were a death blow for a clique of men close to the former Defence Minister, Pavel Grachev, who have controlled military policy in Russia for the past four years. Almost all were close allies of the former minister, who was sacked last week, and four of them were named by General Lebed as conspirators in a plot to put forces on high alert and agitate for General Grachev to keep his job.

General Valeri Lapshov, a former classmate of General Grachev, was head of the ministry's apparatus and his right-hand man. General Dmitri Kharchenko was another college friend and his daughter is married to General Grachev's son, Sergei. Two of the other sacked men held senior posts: Viktor Barynkin was No. 2 in the General Staff and Vladimir Shulikov was Deputy Commander of Land Forces.

The sackings were also aimed at bringing in the military vote for President Yeltsin in the second round of the presidential election on July 3. Ordinary soldiers, who respect General Lebed's reputation for honesty, resent the high levels of corruption in the Defence Ministry.

However, General Lebed has also upset many in the armed forces with a series of stormy telegrams and aggressive statements in his first days in office, which have broken old norms of Soviet military etiquette. Much will now depend on who is made Defence Minister in succession to General Grachev.

The two favourites are Igor Rodionov, an old comrade of General Lebed, who is head of the Academy of the General Staff, and Andrei Nikolayev, the widely respected head of the Russian Border Guards. The appointment of General Rodionov would be controversial as he was in charge of an operation in the Georgian capital, Tbilisi, in 1989 in which 20 demonstrators died.

General Lebed also met President Yeltsin yesterday to discuss his new job as secretary of the presidential Security Council. Two deputy secretaries were dismissed immediately afterwards.

The Security Council has been the main decision-making body on policy in Chechenia and the general is likely to turn his attention to the conflict there. General Lebed has argued for the speediest possible peace settlement. His views appear to coincide with those of Mr Yeltsin, for whom the war has become a millstone.

The President has signed a decree formally ordering Russian troops to start withdrawing from the republic. The June 10 agreement, signed in Nazran, obliges the Russians to pull out all their forces, apart from two brigades, by August 31. However, low-intensity fighting has continued.

Vyacheslav Tikhomirov, the Russian commander in Chechenia, has made scornful remarks about the peace deal in recent days, referring to "so-called negotiations" and calling the Chechens "bandits".

General Lebed has said he plans to visit Chechenia after the July 3 elections.

☐ **Zyuganov confident:** Gennadi Zyuganov said he would beat President Yeltsin in next week's election, despite a cool reception for his plan for a national peace pact and coalition government. "We are sure the result will be in our favour," he told a news conference. "I see people are tired of confrontation." *(Reuter)*

A call to armchairs

BY RUSSIAN *military tradition, the sacked generals will be given handsome pensions and allowed to retire in peace (Thomas De Waal writes). Russia is thought to have the highest number of generals, serving and retired, of any armed forces — more than 2,000. General Grachev has spent the past week at his dacha, playing tennis and refusing to talk to the press.*

Gennadi Zyuganov, the Communist Party leader, plays volleyball in Moscow yesterday as his rival in the race for the Kremlin, President Yeltsin, notched up a 20-point poll lead

Queen's birthday shift by colony

FROM JONATHAN MIRSKY
IN HONG KONG

NEXT year's Hong Kong celebration of the Queen's birthday has been moved back two weeks because of the Chinese takeover of the colony. It will be on June 28, instead of June 16, becoming part of the changeover festivities.

Hong Kong's 1997 holidays, announced by the Government yesterday, give a clue to the upheaval ahead. July 1 will mark "Hong Kong returning to China, Special Autonomous Region Establishment Day". August 18 becomes "Sino-Japanese War Victory Day" and October 1, "National Day".

June 28 is "The Birthday of Her Majesty the Queen", moved "to facilitate community participation in the events surrounding the transition". The very British day injects an element of the past into what will be a pro-Peking weekend.

Even more understated is the description of Monday, June 30, the final day of British rule. In the official gazette it will be marked as "the Monday following the Birthday of Her Majesty the Queen".

New figures emerge from the shadows to fill power vacuum

FROM RICHARD BEESTON IN MOSCOW

A WEEK after President Yeltsin sacked his hardline security and intelligence chiefs, several new figures have emerged in the jockeying to fill the enormous power vaccuum left in the heart of the Kremlin.

General Aleksandr Korzhakov, Mr Yeltsin's bodyguard and the chief of the Kremlin security service, and General Mikhail Barsukov, the head of the Federal Intelligence Service (FSB), had occupied two of the most influential positions in Russia before their dismissal last week, amid allegations of a coup plot.

The man who has most visibly benefited from General Korzhakov's sudden departure is Lieutenant-Colonel Anatoli Kuznetsov, who has now confirmed his position as Mr Yeltsin's personal bodyguard. Throughout the current presidential election campaign the hulking figure of Colonel Kuznetsov has rarely left the Russian leader's side and he has replaced General Korzhakov in the front passenger seat of the presidential limousine.

Little is known about the broad shouldered young officer except that he was trained by the KGB's Ninth Directorate, responsible for guarding Soviet VIPs, and was handpicked by General Korzhakov.

"Kuznetsov's role has not changed. He has been beside the President for the past two years, but nobody noticed him because all attention was focused on Korzhakov," said Sergei Medvedev, the Kremlin spokesman. "There is nothing sinister about his work. He is a member of the security services trained to guard the President's life. That is it."

Behind the scenes, however, a shift in power may have occurred with the appointment of Lieutenant-General Yuri Krapivin as the acting head of the Kremlin security service, which not only protects the Kremlin leader but has its own commando force, intelligence operation and an analytical centre.

Yesterday General Krapivin, another KGB veteran and Korzhakov protégé, was promoted to membership of a key commission, under the control of General Aleksandr Lebed, the new National Security Adviser, to oversee the appointment of senior officers in the military.

As for the FSB, the successor to the KGB, General Barsukov's position is currently being filled by Lieutenant-General Nikolai Kovalyev. However, his appointment as acting director is already being challenged by Sergei Stepashin, a former FSB chief who was sacked a year ago.

While many Kremlin observers believe it is too early to predict who will benefit from the upheavals, most agree that General Korzhakov could re-emerge after the elections in the centre of power.

Murderers reprieved moments from death

Riyadh: A Saudi man and woman convicted of murder were pardoned moments before they were to be executed before a crowd in Saudi Arabia's northern desert city of Hael, *Okaz* newspaper reported yesterday.

A policeman told a crowd that had come to watch the man's beheading and the woman's execution by firing squad that relatives of their victims had pardoned them. The Governor of Hael, Prince Mokran ibn-Abdul Aziz, secured the pardons, *Okaz* said.

Fawwaz ibn-Obeid ibn-Habib al-Shemmari was condemned to death after he was found guilty of murdering a relative. Raya bint Samihanal-Rashidi was sentenced for killing a boy. Under Islamic law, a victim's father or heirs can grant a pardon. *(AFP)*

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Egypt's Scud imports put Israel on guard

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN JERUSALEM

ISRAEL raised yesterday with Warren Christopher, the American Secretary of State, its deep anxieties that Egypt has recently acquired Scud missiles and launchers from North Korea that could be used to *launch conventional* or *chemical* attacks on the Jewish state.

The fears were raised by David Levy, the Foreign Minister. They arise from CIA and other intelligence reports that Egypt recently imported missiles as well as mobile launching vehicles and material connected with the manufacture of Scuds from North Korea.

Despite 17 years of peace between Israel and Egypt, there is concern that the weapons could be turned on the Jewish state if a regional crisis *erupted or if the pro-Western* government in Cairo was toppled by Islamic militants. Israel was the target of more than 30 Scuds fired by Iraq during the 1991 Gulf War.

The Washington Times disclosed, based on a CIA report, that after seven North Korean *shipments* of Scud-related materials in March and April, Egypt could soon start producing *short-range missiles*.

Zeev Schiff, an Israeli defence analyst, said that the deal originated in Eastern Europe, including Slovakia, from where the vehicles for the launchers were acquired. "They were sent to North Korea and after work was completed, they were sent to Egypt," he wrote in *Haaretz*. "The number of launchers requested by Egypt is unknown. Such deals *cause concern* within the Israeli military establishment. They are proof that Egypt is investing a lot to obtain assault weapons."

He said co-operation between Egypt and North Korea in Scud production precedes that between *Syria and Pyongyang, another issue* worrying Israel. "For quite some time now Israel has known that Egypt produced Scud Bs with North Korean aid, but has avoided publicising the issue," Mr Schiff said. "In contrast to this, relations between Syria and North Korea have been criticised by Israel."

The charge comes as Arab-Israeli relations are strained after last month's election of a right-wing government in Israel. An emergency Arab summit in Cairo last weekend warned Israel that peace in the Middle East would be jeopardised if the Jewish state *abandons the principle* of exchanging occupied land for peace.

Intelligence experts believe that the latest transfer of equipment from North Korea to Egypt is aimed at boosting domestic Egyptian production of Scuds. On Israeli television, Mr Schiff said the weapons system was an offensive and not a *defensive one. In Haaretz, he wrote*: "The building of such an assault capacity will be considered a threat if a radical Muslim government takes over in Egypt or if the peace process collapses."

According to American officials, *the transfer of the offensive weapons* could have implications for United *States policy on Egypt. The country* is the second largest recipient of American aid, receiving about $2 billion (£1.3 billion) a year from Washington. North Korea has been promised *$4.5 billion* in advanced nuclear technology and alternate energy supplies in a deal with America aimed at ending Pyongyang's nuclear weapons programme.

In a first comment, Nicolas Burns, the State Department spokesman, said Washington took "very seriously" the reports of the transfer of Scud materials and would be looking into them. He said at this stage "we have not determined that there has been any violation of US [anti-proliferation] law" that could require the imposition of sanctions.

Yitzhak Mordechai, Israel's new Defence Minister, carries an M16 rifle on his first visit to the occupied zone in south Lebanon yesterday

Netanyahu firm in face of US peace pressure

BY CHRISTOPHER WALKER

UNEQUIVOCAL backing from *Binyamin* Netanyahu, the Israeli Prime Minister, for increased Jewish settlement in the occupied West Bank yesterday cast a shadow over attempts by Warren Christopher, the US Secretary of State, to revive the flagging Middle East peace process.

Referring to the West Bank and Gaza Strip — captured from the Arabs in 1967 — as the biblical land of Israel, Mr Netanyahu raised the spectre of renewed clashes between Palestinians and Jewish settlers *when he* said firmly: "You know my positions and the positions of my Government about the unqualified right of the Jewish people to settle in all parts *of the Land* of Israel. A specific decision on how that settlement policy will be implemented has not been made yet, but it will be in the near future."

Hebrew press reports suggest that Ariel Sharon, the architect of Israel's earlier settlement drive, is close to completing negotiations which will enable him to join the Israeli Cabinet as Minister of National Infrastructure. Speaking at a joint press conference after two hours of talks with Mr Christopher — designed *to* pave the way for Mr Netanyahu's vist to the White House on July 9 — the Israeli leader said renewal of peace talks with the Palestinians was strictly conditional on Israeli security *needs* being met.

But he failed to satisfy American hopes that he would provide a firm commitment *to pull Israeli troops out* of the West Bank city of Hebron as agreed in the 1993 peace deal between Israel and the Palestinians.

"We adhere to the principle of honouring agreements by *all the parties. We are* also aware progress towards peace depends ... on the security issue. Therefore on Hebron, we have to move forward cautiously."

Israel was to have pulled soldiers out of *all but* 15 per cent of Hebron last March. But *Shimon Peres postponed* the redeployment after Islamic *suicide* bombers killed more than 60 people.

Mr Christopher said on board his flight to Tel Aviv that he would urge Mr Netanyahu to open lines of contact with Mr Arafat. Mr Netanyahu *has said many* times that he is not keen to meet *the Palestinian* leader.

Yesterday Ahmed Qureia, *speaker* of the Palestinian legislative council and a leading peace negotiator, complained: "So far, there are no scheduled meetings between *Palestinian and Israeli officials* except for military officers. There are no meetings on the political level. This will delay and freeze the peace process." The point *was underlined* when Israel Radio reported that a senior official in the Foreign Ministry was suspended in anticipation of an investigation into reports that he had attempted to set up a *first meeting* between Mr Arafat and David Levy, the Israeli Foreign Minister, regarded as one of the more moderate members of the Cabinet.

Mr Christopher was dismissive of last weekend's Arab summit communiqué, claiming that diversity between the 21 leaders present *ensured that "it is not* a useful *document for negotiating purposes*".

Openly admitting that in the face of the new realties, "it will take some time" to get talks reopened, Mr Christopher — *who never disguised* his personal preference for Mr Peres during the election campaign — sought comfort in the fact that both sides still proclaim they want peace rather than war.

"You can see a common theme," the Secretary of State claimed in an attempt to provide reassurance. "The parties want to continue the peace process. They do not want to return to conflict."

> ❛ The parties still want peace. They do not want a return to conflict ❜

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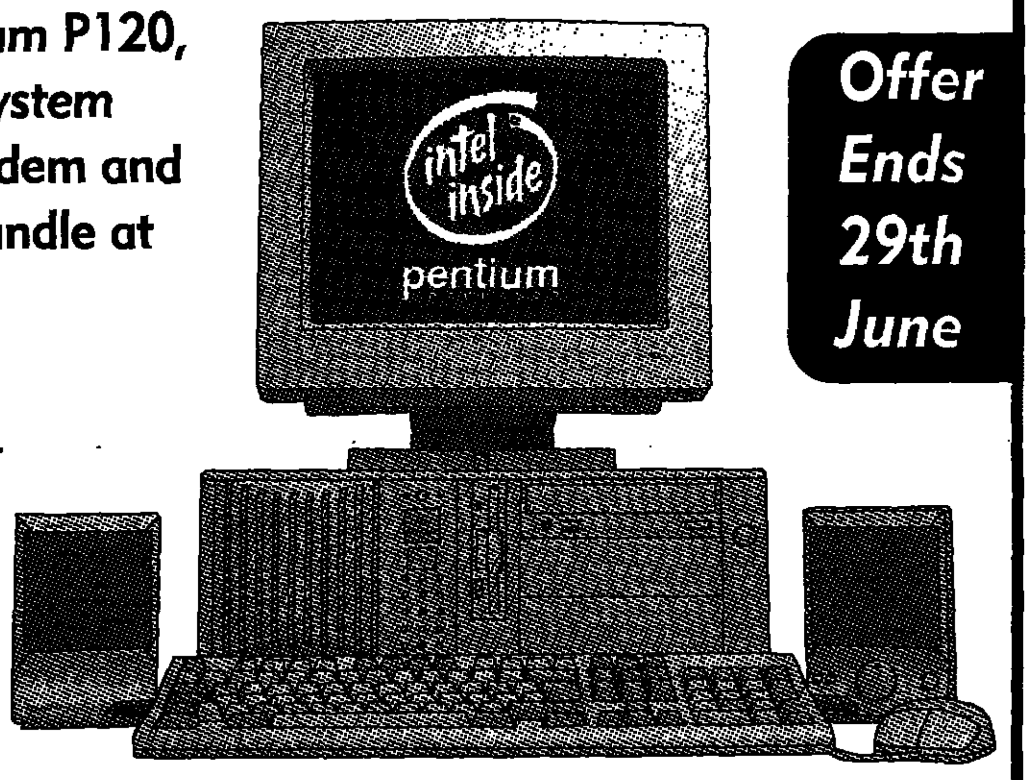

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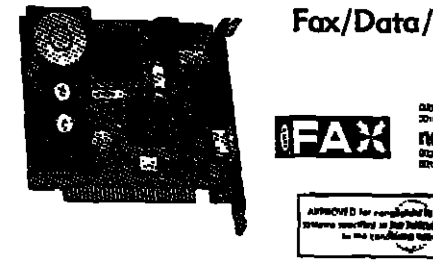

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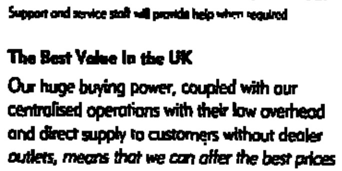
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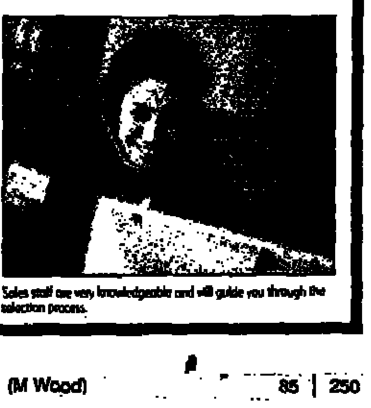
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German business fears backlash by China over Tibet

FROM ROGER BOYES IN BONN

BONN and Peking were yesterday caught up in a political feud that could harm Germany's position as China's main European trading partner. Contracts worth billions of marks are being negotiated and, although each side claimed yesterday that the row would not hurt commerce, there was anxiety here.

China was angered by a Bundestag resolution last week accusing the Chinese of trying to eradicate Tibet's cultural identity. Peking cancelled an invitation to Klaus Kinkel, Germany's Foreign Minister, who was due next month. After some hesitation, Helmut Kohl, the Chancellor, told other Cabinet members to call off their trips.

Battle lines appeared to harden yesterday. "There is no reason for us to take back anything that we said in the Tibet resolution," a German Foreign Ministry spokeswoman said. "Visits were cancelled and this is clear language."

The ripples have spread through the whole range of Sino-German relations. Senior German army officers cancelled scheduled visits, and President Herzog's November state visit is in doubt. However, the most significant moves concern business. There are signs that the Chinese Embassy is holding up businessmen's visas, and a September conference on small business investment may be cancelled.

Bilateral trade stands at about DM27 billion (about £12 billion) and new German investment has been flooding in over the past two years. Cumulative German investment in China between 1979 and 1993 was only DM1.5 billion. But in 1994 alone there was investment of DM1.3 billion. So far this year, there have been statements of intent amounting to DM3 billion worth of new investment.

Germany is in a strong position to flex its muscles. Sino-American relations have reached an historic low and at least some of the recent German trade reflects that.

The largest German contract in the offing is the DM6 billion BASF plan to build an integrated petrochemical plant in Nanking, with 50 per cent German participation. The company said yesterday there was "currently no reason to fear a setback".

In November 1995, during a visit to China by Herr Kohl, 12 declarations of intent were signed — hailed as a breakthrough in relations — and defence ties broken after Tiananmen were resumed. The Chinese then assumed human rights issues would take a lower profile.

Bonn, conscious of the need to save China's face, has never called for Tibetan independence. Last week's parliamentary resolution, backed by the Government, came as a shock to China. Moreover, it came after a Tibetan cultural exhibition, a well publicised symposium on Tibet and a renewed invitation to the Dalai Lama. Germany, in the Chinese view, seemed to be moving closer to recognising Tibet.

Heinrich Weiss, chairman of the powerful Asian-Pacific economic lobbying group and an industrialist, claims the large number of German-Chinese ventures forces Peking to listen to Bonn. About 100,000 Chinese are employed because of German investments. However, the confederation of German industry sounded a note of panic yesterday when it declared that "misunderstandings must not be allowed to damage economic relations".

China, on the face of it, has more to lose from a lasting trade war because it is the biggest supplier of toys to Germany and exports clothing and electrical products.

Leading article, page 21

Tarja Halonen, Finland's Foreign Minister, centre, surveys the site of a mass grave at Kravice in Bosnian Serb territory where Finnish experts are to collect the remains of Muslims killed when nearby Srebrenica was overrun last year.

Dig for Bosnia bodies

Only a fraction of the suspected victims may ever be uncovered because of the problems surrounding the task (Eve-Ann Prentice writes). The move to begin excavating the site comes almost exactly a year after up to 8,000 Muslim boys and men were allegedly murdered by Bosnian Serbs. It also comes as the war crimes tribunal in The Hague is to begin hearing evidence against Radovan Karadzic, the Bosnian Serb leader, and General Ratko Mladic, his military chief. It was announced, meanwhile, that Bosnia will hold its first postwar election on September 14.

Spanish conqueror felled by vandals

FROM TUNKU VARADARAJAN IN MADRID

VANDALS have toppled and mutilated the statue of the conquistador Vasco Núñez de Balboa, one of Madrid's best-known landmarks.

The bronze statue, unveiled in 1953 to mark the 450th anniversary of Balboa's discovery of the Pacific Ocean, is prostrate and half-submerged in an ornamental pool, surrounded by empty wine bottles. The conquistador's sword-bearing right arm has also been severed from the body.

While Balboa is celebrated in Spain for his New World conquests, he is perhaps more familiar to lovers of English literature as the victim of a spectacular example of poetic licence.

In his *On First Looking into Chapman's Homer*, John Keats stated that it was "stout Cortez" who first "star'd at the Pacific". Keats immortalised the wrong man. It was, in fact, Balboa who stood with all his men, "silent, upon a peak in Darien".

Slovenes recall *short war that led to prosperity*

BY ROGER BOYES

IT WAS, everybody seemed to agree, bad opera:,,Puccini, perhaps, with lyrics by Clausewitz. The ten-day Slovene war of independence, which broke out five years ago today, was little more than a series of skirmishes in defence of a charming, verdant alpine republic. Yet these were also the initial shots in half a decade of grisly fighting on the southern cusp of Europe, not so much an operetta as the first act of a full blown tragedy.

Slovenes celebrated their independence not on the traditional Congress Square in Ljubljana, where in 1918 they had shrugged off Austrian rule, but on Republic Square, a soulless stretch of pavement hemmed in by banks, a supermarket and the parliament. As they returned home on the city's cobbled streets, the sirens blared. In a quavering voice, a radio announcer declared: "The tanks of the Yugoslav Peoples' Army have left their barracks."

In the following days the sirens sounded again and again, as Yugoslav MiGs buzzed the capital. Slovenia is perfect guerrilla country and the Slovene Army showed us models to demonstrate how Yugoslav tank columns could be blocked in the mountain passes. Some 70,000 men, out of a population of barely two million, had been mobilised. Ljubljana had the social structure of Toytown, and the soldiers included fishmongers, bank clerks and bus drivers. The war, we slowly grasped, was being fought for the press. Reports of great military encounters reached *the world's media in the bomb-proof basement of the parliament building. But quick excursions to the reported battle sites revealed at best a few buckled vehicles or a burnt-out roof. Even after five years of mythologising, the local television station was recently hard put to cobble together a war documentary from the video footage.*

> ❛One of the conditions of independence is the ability to defend borders❜

Compared to what happened later, when the Yugoslav Army shifted its attention to Croatia which had also declared independence, the Slovene war was a passage in minor key. The final death toll was 67, 44 of whom were Yugoslav soldiers. But the war did matter. One of the first conditions of independence is the ability to defend sovereign borders. The Slovenes did so successfully, partly because their declaration prompted a crisis in the Yugoslav Army. Tank columns got within 19 miles of the capital and then withdrew; a great victory was declared. The issue of ethnic allegiance hung over the Army and forced generals to ask whether a unified Socialist Yugoslavia was a goal worth fighting for.

The war also triggered a European foreign policy crisis. On July 5 Hans-Dietrich Genscher, then German Foreign Minister, said that Europe should recognise the independence of Croatia and Slovenia. This became part of a catastrophic European Union strategy in the Balkans. A Croatian pop singer penned a song: *Dankeschön Deutschland*. Briefly, very briefly, it topped the local charts.

Slovenia, divorced from its southern neighbours, now prospers. Ljubljana is full of exclusive shops; 300 companies have been privatised and another 1,000 will soon follow. The small country has won the highest credit rating in post-Communist Europe. Increasingly it is mentioned as one of the first wave entrants to the EU. This week the Slovenes will abandon their factories and celebrate their short ruritanian war.

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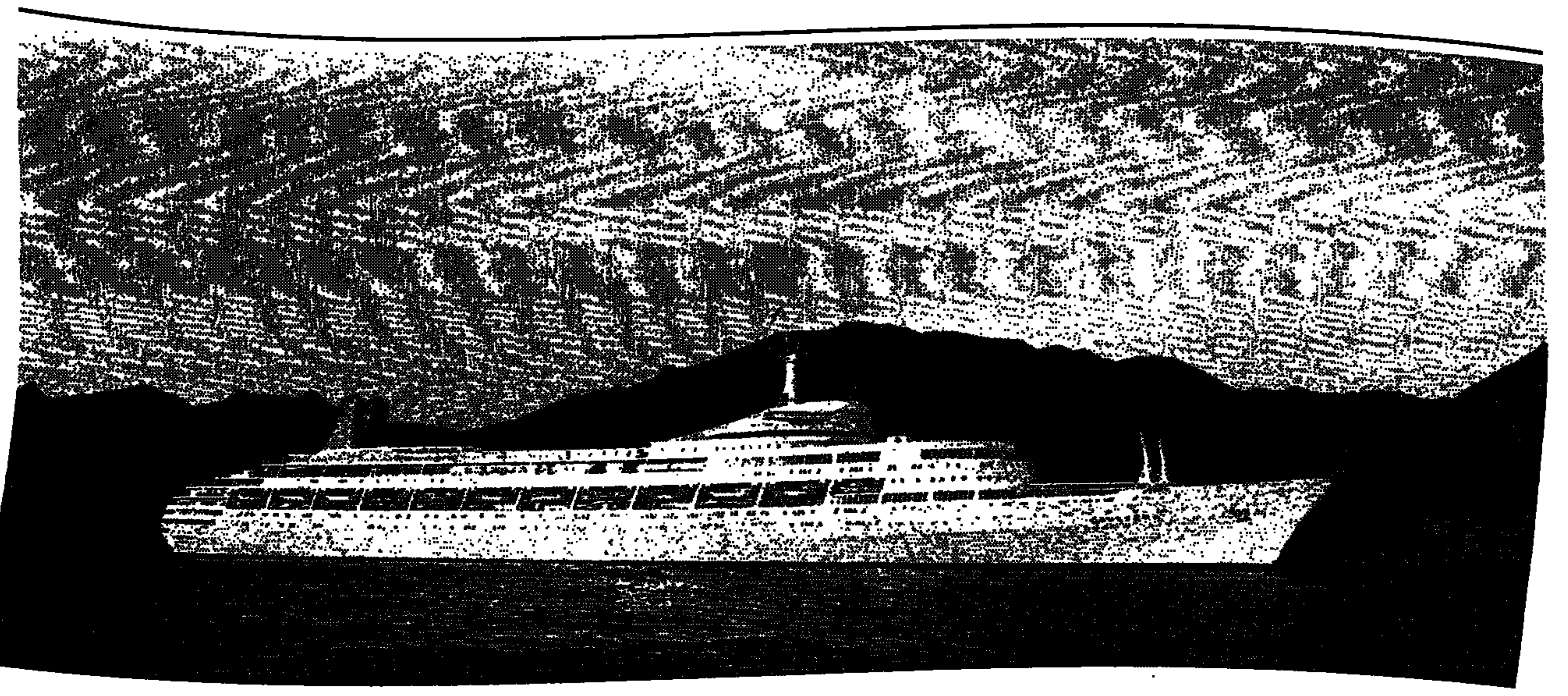

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which started in the early 1900s has moved to the nearby speed track, home of the Daytona 500, driving on the economy, environmentalists have sued Volusia County, the area covering the beach, arguing that cars are destroying locals who say the five million vehicles using the beach each year bring in $3 million (£1.93 million) in access fees.

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Natal warlords pave way for peaceful poll

From Inigo Gilmore in Mpumalanga, near Durban

SIPHO MLABA'S chubby face was enveloped in a grin as he pointed along the dusty street towards colourful posters promoting rival political parties hung side by side on lampposts by campaign workers — a rare sight in KwaZulu/Natal where in many areas such an act can be life-endangering.

"We have proved that politics and violence do not have to go together in this province," the former warlord declared proudly. "People should be free to choose." For a local political leader, not least one who struck dread into his opponents, his tolerant language seems extraordinary.

Yet the recent history of Mpumalanga, which has seen its transformation from war zone to peace haven, is out of the ordinary. And as South Africa's most troubled province prepares to vote in delayed local government elections today, there is new hope that the poll could pave the way for greater political tolerance and peace by drawing on the lessons learnt in this township, 30 miles north of Durban's beaches.

Even by the bloody standards of KwaZulu/Natal, where 15,000 have died since the mid-1980s because of conflict between supporters of the African National Congress and their Inkatha Freedom Party rivals, Mpumalanga was notorious. Once dubbed the Beirut of South Africa, more than half of the population had fled the sprawling township by the late 1980s to escape fighting which in one weekend alone claimed 38 lives.

As an Inkatha warlord, Mr Mlaba, 46, was a target for assassination, and saw his thriving business destroyed. After losing two brothers and many other relatives during clashes in 1990, he agreed to peace talks with Meshack Radebe, an ANC warlord. They struck up an immediate rapport, travelled together in public, set up peace committees and eventually staged a joint political rally.

"It was very dangerous for both of us," said the bearded, burly Mr Mlaba, who once would never travel anywhere without armed protection, "because many criminals profited from the conflict and people on my own side were against peace".

Though shaky at times, the peace has held and the results have been inspirational: thousands of former residents have flocked back to the township, swelling the population from 40,000 to 200,000; houses, schools and clinics have been rebuilt and hundreds of jobs created through new business.

Touted as peacemakers, the two men have visited America and Burundi to share their experiences, and recently received a government grant to train former youth fighters to become peace monitors. The birth of the project coincided with an announcement by provincial leaders earlier this month of a fresh local peace initiative. Drawing on the lessons of Mpumalanga, warlords from both sides, acknowledging their guilt, swore to become "peacelords" and hold rallies with their foes.

With Inkatha aiming to improve on its 50 per cent share of the vote in the province in the 1994 general election, Chief Mangosuthu Buthelezi, the Inkatha leader, has toned down his more inflammatory language.

The apparent political goodwill and accompanying lull in political violence has raised expectations. But many observers remain sceptical that it will endure, not least because 30,000 security personnel have been deployed for the poll.

Buthelezi: toning down inflammatory rhetoric

Tourists' rapists jailed

From Ray Kennedy in Johannesburg

FIVE black men who attacked and gang-raped three British tourists and a New Zealander in South Africa were sentenced to between 17 and 23 years' imprisonment yesterday.

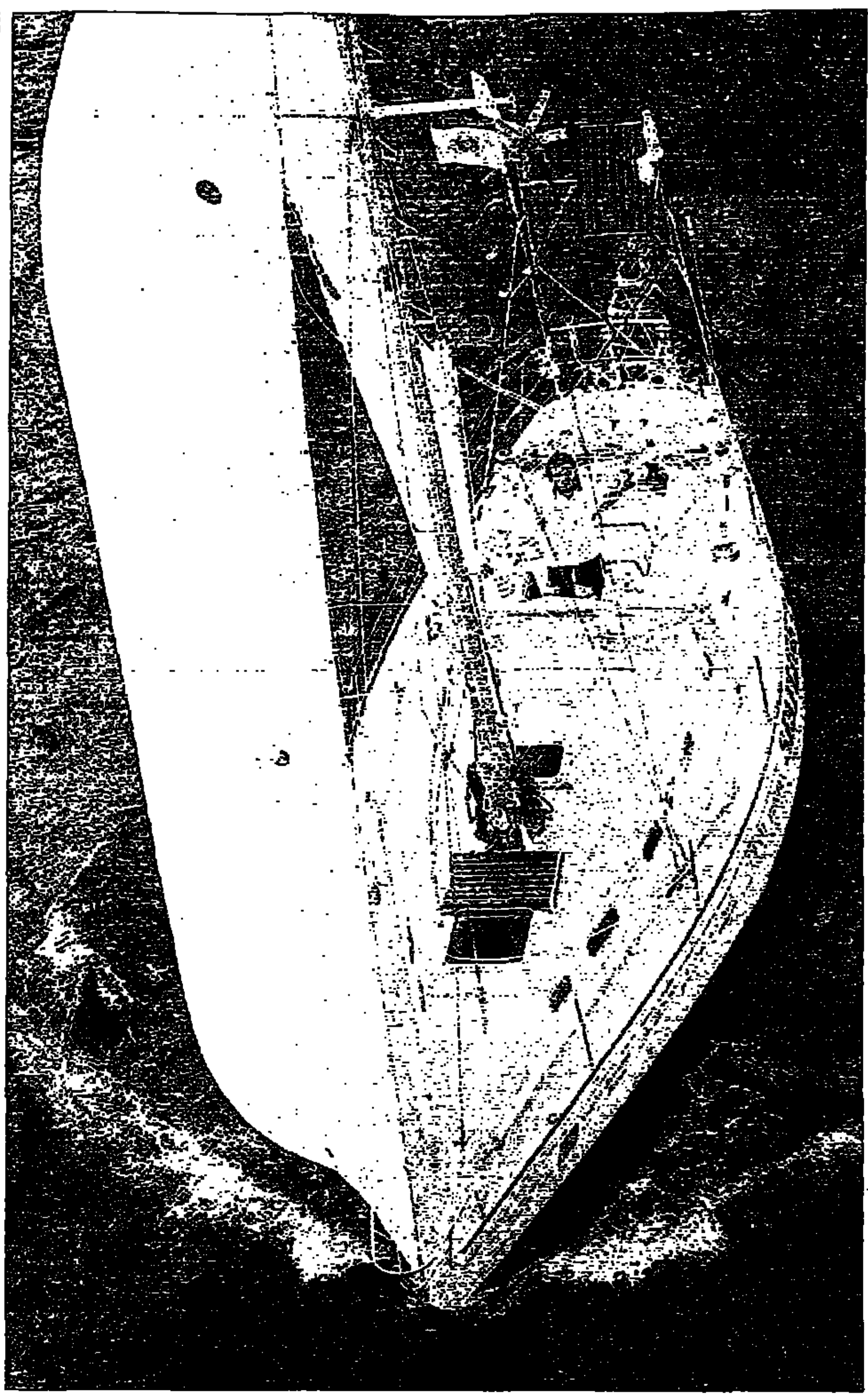
The men were convicted last week in the Supreme Court at Umtata in Eastern Cape province of rape, kidnapping and armed robbery, but were cleared of attempted murder.

The tourists' ordeal began last September when they were driving through the former Transkei bantustan and became lost after nightfall. The five men in a truck opened fire on their hired car and forced them to stop.

The women and Denis Druda, 24, a medical student from Newcastle-upon-Tyne, were forced to strip. He could only watch helplessly while the women were attacked.

The men later drove off in their car. The tourists huddled, naked and terrified, under bushes at the roadside until daybreak, when they ventured into a nearby village where they were given food and clothing.

At Christmas the mother of one of the British women sent £80 to buy food and drink for a village party.



David Dicks on *Seaflight* in Fremantle harbour, Australia, preparing for his trip

The sailor has a farewell hug from his sister, Robin

Lone teenage mariner sails across the Great Divide

From Roger Maynard in Sydney

AN AUSTRALIAN sailor, 17, who is aiming to become the youngest person to circumnavigate the world alone and non-stop, has crossed the Equator.

David Dicks, from Perth, Western Australia, told his mother, Patricia, by radio yesterday that he was making excellent progress and was back on schedule. He had been delayed by a week because of bad weather and a damaged mast in his 33ft sloop, *Seaflight*. The Royal Navy came to his rescue, dropping him a specially made bolt to repair the mast as he passed the Falklands in the South Atlantic.

Shortly before that, he became the youngest sailor to negotiate the treacherous Cape Horn alone.

He set sail from Fremantle on February 26 and hopes to be back in his home port shortly after his eighteenth birthday, on October 6. His latest position is 275 miles east of northern Brazil. He hopes to reach the halfway point of his voyage — Bermuda — at the end of next month.

Pakistan threatens to stall test ban treaty

By Michael Binyon
Diplomatic Editor

INTENSIVE talks to complete the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty before this week's deadline were thrown into turmoil yesterday by a warning from Pakistan that it might refuse to sign the treaty if India did not endorse it.

Munir Akram, Pakistan's Ambassador in Geneva, said India's announcement last week that it would not sign the draft without a clear timetable for eliminating all nuclear weapons "could spell the death-knell of the treaty". He called on the disarmament conference in Geneva to find "constructive compromises" to meet Delhi's demands, and said Pakistan was prepared to negotiate "around the clock".

Mulayam Singh Yadav, the Indian Defence Minister, said yesterday that India would not buckle under Western pressure to sign the pact, saying that it was discriminatory.

"We cannot accept the fact that a few countries will be allowed to rely on nuclear weapons for their security while denying the same right to others," Mr Yadav said.

America and its Western allies say that until the "threshold" states, which include Pakistan and India, sign the treaty, it cannot come into force as it would not guarantee the elimination of all nuclear tests throughout the world.

The chairman of the 61-nation conference published a revised treaty text on Monday, and the danger from this latest delay is that hard-won agreement on other controversial matters may now unravel.

Herbal extract inhibits HIV

Singapore: A team of scientists has isolated a chemical compound from herbs that inhibits the growth of an HIV enzyme needed for the Aids virus to mature. Dr Sim Keng Yeow, of the National University of Singapore, said yesterday that it had taken more than three years to test extracts from about 75 herbs on the enzyme. *(Reuter)*

Trial focuses on moustache

By Roger Maynard

THE backpacker murder trial moved towards its conclusion yesterday with the defence completing its case almost three months to the day after Ivan Milat entered the dock at Sydney's supreme court.

Photographs of Mr Milat and Merv Hughes, the Australian cricketer, were shown to the jury to illustrate their styles of moustache. Mr Milat, now clean-shaven, has insisted that he never had a Merv Hughes-style moustache, the type described by Paul Onions, a British tourist who was allegedly kidnapped by Mr Milat in January 1990.

Earlier, Challinder Hughes, Mr Milat's girlfriend, described how she found a top, identical to one worn by Caroline Clarke, the murdered British backpacker, in her boyfriend's house. She did not know how it got there but said: "Definitely it was not my top."

Mr Milat, a road worker, has pleaded not guilty to charges of murdering seven young tourists whose bodies were found in the Belanglo State Forest between September 1992 and November 1993. Two victims were Britons.

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T3

Evil of child labour attacked

By Michael Dynes

WELL-OFF consumers should be urged to boycott products made by children to try to stamp out the growth in child labour, Bill Jordan, general secretary of the Brussels-based International Confederation of Free Trade Unions, said yesterday.

With about 200 million children now employed worldwide, Mr Jordan, former president of the Amalgamated Engineering and Electrical Union, appealed to governments, multinational companies, consumers and international trade unions to help fight the continuing increase in the practice.

Shoes from Brazil, carpets from North Africa, Afghanistan, India and Pakistan, underwear from the Philippines, and toys from China and Thailand are some of the products made by children, according to a report published by the confederation yesterday. At the organisation's five-day congress, Mr Jordan told journalists: "We're not here to condemn the countries where child labour exists [but] to help them out of this [downward] spiral."

The congress is debating trade union rights worldwide, rising unemployment and poverty, cheap child labour and the effects of the globalisation of trade.

Introducing the report, *No Time to Play*, Mr Jordan said there was evidence that the problem of working children was getting worse. More and more companies employ them, sometimes as young as five, through subcontractors. "It's a question of tracing the point of production to the point of source," he said.

The confederation and Fifa, the world soccer governing body, were following up a recent case of child labourers in Pakistan found producing footballs bearing the Euro 96 soccer logo, he added. "We wrote to Fifa and they acknowledged that it was a problem. We and they are going to take the long and winding route to the source of this most appalling child labour through the sub-contractors," he said.

The confederation, which represents 127 million workers through 194 affiliates around the world, was asking its members to help provide evidence, Mr Jordan said. But, because child labour created wealth, investigators often came up against a "wall of silence" and intimidation.

The confederation's report gives details of child labour in 20 countries. Up to 100 million underage workers, a quarter of the total, are thought to be in India, where school drop-out rates in hand-made carpet-producing areas are about 85 per cent.

In the Philippines, children imprisoned in a sardine factory for a year were crippled by cramped conditions, while their counterparts in Brazil dig by hand in mines and are murdered if they try to escape, the report adds.

It says that in the United States more than 20,000 children are illegally employed in hazardous occupations and almost 50 are killed and 128,000 injured in work-related accidents each year.

In Britain, child prostitution rings are developing apace, it adds.

Between 15 and 20 per cent of children in Latin America work, many as domestic servants for no pay. "The biggest contribution is for developed countries to pay for those other (less developed) countries to get out of this hole," Mr Jordan said.

The report says that many child labourers are following in the footsteps of their parents, adding that education for children is the single most important way to break the cycle. A "social clause" penalising countries that do nothing to stop the practice should be introduced into international trade agreements, the report suggests.

The confederation scornfully dismisses arguments that child labour is a traditional aspect of most societies and is important for their personal development. "These were the same arguments used to justify massive exploitation of children in the industrial revolution and they are as false now as they were then," the report says.

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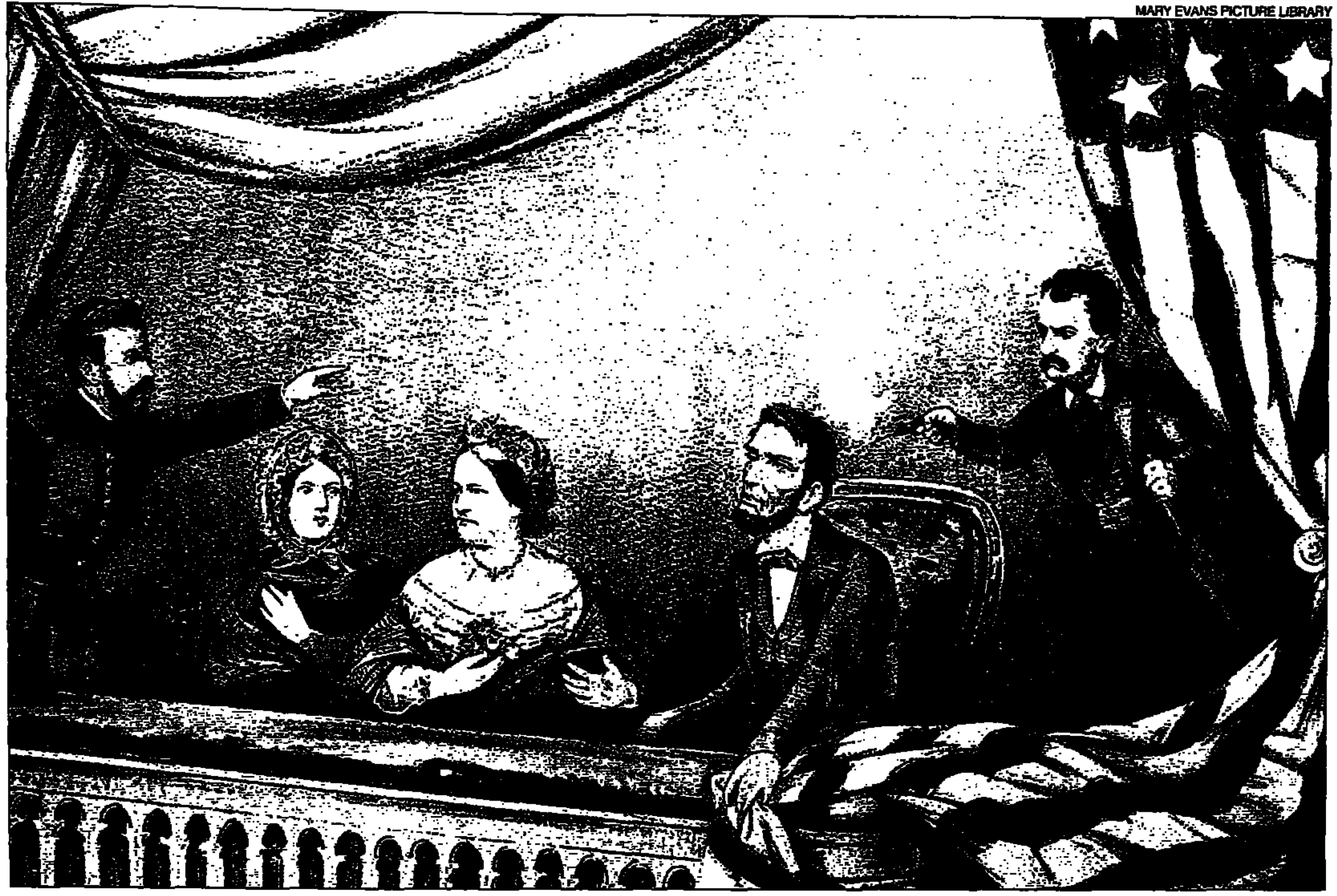

A wounded President Lincoln clutches the Union flag that absorbed his blood after he was shot by John Wilkes Booth. He died the next day

Flag that cushioned dying Lincoln found in village

From Martin Fletcher
in Washington

A TINY museum was mobbed by television crews and flooded with national newspaper calls yesterday over a gem displayed for 42 years.

Polk County Historical Society in the village of Milford, Pennsylvania, has always boasted that its blood-stained American flag was used as a pillow for Abraham Lincoln's head the night he was assassinated but no one took the museum seriously. Now it has been vindicated.

Joseph Garrera, a Lincoln buff from neighbouring New Jersey, heard of the claim last year and began to investigate. He discovered the flag had been given by Paul Struthers, a local man whose grandfather, Thomas Gourlay, and mother, Jennie, were acting at Ford's Theatre in Washington on the night of April 14, 1865 when Lincoln was shot.

The President's entourage pulled the flag from the front of Lincoln's box to cradle his head. After the President was removed, Thomas Gourlay, also the theatre's part-time stage manager, bundled up the flag and took it home.

He died in 1885 and left it to his daughter who married and moved to Milford in 1888. She, in turn, bequeathed it to her son, Paul Struthers. Mr Garrera produced a hefty report summarising his hundreds of hours of research. He sent it to leading Lincoln scholars, who found his conclusions irrefutable. "I'm just about convinced it's the flag that was in the theatre," said Michael Maione, historian of Ford's Theatre, now run by the National Park Service.

The flag was one of the most significant Lincoln finds in decades and a "touching symbol", said Wayne Temple, chief deputy director of the state archives in Illinois, Lincoln's home state. "Here his head was lying on a folded flag of the Union that he gave his life for." Mr Garrera called his discovery "the most exciting thing I'll ever be involved in". He said the museum's claim was dismissed only because no one could believe such a national treasure was not in a great institution.

Barbara Buchanan, the Historical Society's president, was thrilled to be vindicated, but apprehensive. The modest museum, run by volunteers, opens three days a week, charges $2 (£1.30) admission and attracts about 1,500 visitors a year.

That is likely to balloon to 150,000 — unless Ford's Theatre museum tries to reclaim its stolen property.

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Mrs Clinton denies resorting to guru

By Martin Fletcher

WITH a mixture of humour and anger, Hillary Clinton is trying to quell stories about her use of a spiritual guru before they cause serious damage.

She and President Clinton joke in their speeches about her communing with the dead, but the First Lady also issued a statement emphatically denying that she had turned to Jean Houston, founder of the Foundation for Mind Research, for succour. "I have no spiritual advisers or any other alternative to my deeply-held Methodist faith and traditions I have relied on since childhood," she said.

A new book by Bob Woodward, the celebrated Watergate journalist, describes a scene in the White House private quarters last April when Dr Houston guided Mrs Clinton through an imaginary conversation with Eleanor Roosevelt, her equally controversial predecessor.

Mrs Clinton insisted this was merely "an interesting intellectual exercise" and part of a "freewheeling discussion" designed to stimulate ideas for her book on children. In several interviews yesterday, Dr Houston also denied it was a seance and accused the media of deliberate distortion.

White House aides

believe the source of the leak may be Barbara Feinman, the original ghostwriter of Mrs Clinton's book. Ms Feinman once worked as Mr Woodward's researcher, and she attended and taped the White House session.

Mrs Clinton faces another test today when a congressional committee grills Craig Livingstone, head of the White House Office of Personnel Security, about why he ordered FBI background files on more than 400 Republican officials and permanent White House staff. One retired FBI official who worked on the request claimed it was inspired by Mrs Clinton because she was determined to discover who leaked a story about her throwing a lamp at her husband.

Leading article, page 21

Turtles threaten Daytona racing

From Tom Rhodes
in New York

THE car enthusiasts who have made Daytona Beach a byword for speed and beach parties are under pressure from environmentalists who fear they pose a threat to the loggerheard turtle.

Although the motor racing which started in the early 1900s has moved to the nearby speed track, home of the Daytona 500, driving on the golden sands remains an attraction at the resort.

The soft sand of the dunes, however, has also lured adult female loggerheads and green turtles, protected under the Endangered Species Act in America, which crawl ashore at night to lay their eggs.

In a dispute which could have dire effects on the local economy, environmentalists have sued Volusia County, the area covering the beach, arguing that cars are destroying turtle nests and killing hatchlings. Last summer a federal court forced the county to prohibit beach driving at night. Now the environmentalists are seeking a total ban between May and October.

Volusia County has proposed that it should close nine miles of the most sensitive beach. This has dissatisfied locals who say the five million vehicles using the beach each year bring in $3 million (£1.93 million) in access fees.

WORLD SUMMARY

US capital is hit by tornados

Washington: A rare series of tornados hit Washington suburbs, ripping off roofs, uprooting trees and leaving 250,000 homes without electricity (Ian Brodie writes).

There were no reports of injuries from the storm during the evening rush-hour, but one family had a narrow escape when an oak tree crashed through their roof and landed in the living room. The worst tornado swirled at 150mph and fallen trees caused huge traffic jams. The storms were caused by a combination of heat, humidity and converging air currents.

UN chief briefs Major on reform

London: Boutros Boutros Ghali, the United Nations Secretary-General, yesterday gave John Major a detailed briefing on his efforts to reform the United Nations in a clear attempt to win British backing for a renewal of his five-year term of office (Michael Binyon writes).

Dr Boutros Ghali, who will today meet Malcolm Rifkind, the Foreign Secretary, is on his way to the G7 summit in Lyons.

Euthanasia MP says he has Aids

Sydney: A former New South Wales MP announced that he had Aids and hoped to take advantage of voluntary euthanasia (Roger Maynard writes). Paul O'Grady, 36, who resigned this year, was the first Australian politician to admit his homosexuality publicly. He took up the euthanasia cause after the Northern Territory Government passed a Bill to legalise voluntary euthanasia.

Nigeria frees opposition editor

Lagos: Nigeria has freed Nosa Igiebor, the editor of an opposition magazine, *TELL*. He had been jailed since December. His release, the seventh recently, coincides with talks in London between Nigeria and the Commonwealth from which the country has been suspended over human rights. But any link between the two was denied by the Nigerian junta. *(Reuter)*

Swede accused over 'racist' CD

Stockholm: A 26-year-old Swede was accused of distributing CDs inciting racism and propagating hatred — the first such charge. Police seized 554 copies of the *White Solidarity*, a collection of songs performed by seven groups from different European countries, when they searched the unnamed suspect's Askersund home. *(AP)*

Family flees to freedom

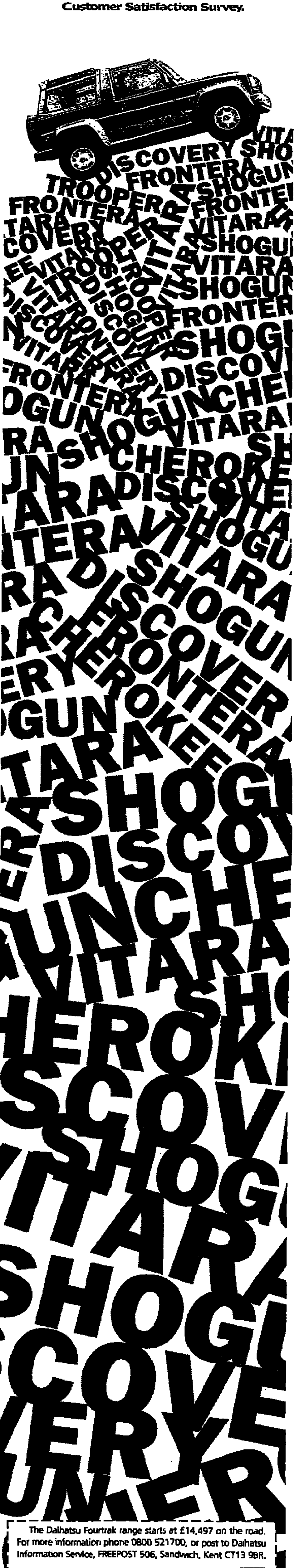
Rabat: Maria Oukfir, 34, daughter of a former Moroccan army general, yesterday fled 24 years of persecution suffered in revenge for her father's attempt to overthrow King Hassan (Mark Huband writes). She escaped in a small boat across the Straits of Gibralter with an aunt and an adopted son.

Plan to build pub in a mug

New York: The small town of Black River Falls, Wisconsin, is planning to build a 130ft edifice in the shape of a giant beer stein (Tom Rhodes writes). The glass handle will serve as a lift shaft and at the top of the nine-storey Steinhaus will be a pub. The rest will be a shopping emporium.

Off licence

Oslo: A man who had just passed his driving test failed a breath test after the examiner smelled alcohol — and immediately had his newly-won licence revoked. He was later jailed for three weeks. *(AP)*



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Ode to the great white shirt

A white shirt is essential for summer, but choosing the right one has never been more complicated, says **Grace Bradberry**

WORN BY the romantic poets and eulogised by style gurus for the past two decades, white shirts have recently suffered an eclipse. If they haven't been beyond the pale, then they have certainly been overshadowed by coloured shirts.

But now the white shirt is back for high summer, as flattering but as impractical as ever. "They really are a barometer of pollution," says Stephen Knight, the poet (pictured right in an Issey Miyake shirt). "One day in London and you can see what you've been breathing in."

That aside, the white shirt is still one of the easiest things to wear, so it is not surprising that cutting-edge designers are reclaiming it from the lager and football crowd.

Egg, the boutique for the design set, sells piles of simple, white tunic shirts. Gucci, which began the shirt revival two seasons ago with its slim-fitting designs in coloured satin, is also rehabilitating white, with a sheer women's shirt for the summer. The price is equally sheer — about £550, give or take an inconsequential pound or two.

But you can buy a great white shirt for less than £30. Marks & Spencer does one for £25. An Agnès b shirt will cost a little bit more — but the designer insists they are "virtually indestructible".

WHY was the white shirt ever cast aside? Probably because it had become virtually a uniform. But now the new shapes demand an individual taste that the classic cuts did not.

Sadly, this is not an opportunity to dig out an old friend: the shapes have changed. Androgyny is firmly out for women. Borrowing a partner's, friend's or husband's is no longer the last word in style. Even the wealthy Eurotrash set have abandoned their mannish Ralph Lauren shirts in favour of the new cropped women's version — the tails destroy the line of low-waisted skirts, and look bulky stuffed into slim capri pants.

But if the flesh is weak, particularly around the abdominals, then longer, fitted shirts are a better option. Look for hemlines that fall just below the stomach and avoid sheer fabrics with obvious seams.

For men, the best shirts are either Jermyn Street style: deep cuffs, good quality cotton, close fitting — or they're minimalist: fine cottons and linens, slightly sheer in appearance, in looser shapes with strong lines. At the extreme, men should think Jarvis Cocker. His white shirts take an ironic sideswipe at the schoolboy look, with their conventional cuffs and skinny shape.

THE SHADE of white is also significant. When Sir Hardy Amies described the white shirt as "truly naff", he was thinking of the harsh white nylon ones designed to survive 100 washes.

In Sir Hardy's opinion, really good cottons and linens are always slightly off-white. But if you want to be truly fashionable, a self-consciously cheap look à la Jarvis Cocker is the thing.

"What's he talking about?" asks David Bradshaw, the fashion director of *Arena* magazine, who is baffled by the diktats of Hardy Amies. "Some of the cheaper fabrics are more interesting. They do weird things in the light and go sheer in places they shouldn't."

Nonetheless, Mr Bradshaw's last purchase was a boxy white Issey Miyake shirt. And who can blame him? Heavy irony can, after all, be difficult to wear.

● *Stephen Knight's first volume of poetry,* Flowering Limbs, *is published by Bloodaxe Books (£5.95). His second,* Dream City Cinema, *will be published in October.*

ABOVE: White lace shirt, £26.99, Oasis, from branches nationwide (for inquiries, 0171-377 5335). Lime linen trousers, £135, Paul Smith (for inquiries 0171-379 7133)

ABOVE: Demi-sleeve double cuff shirt, £80, Joe Casely-Hayford, from Pellicano, 63 South Molton St, London W1 (0171-240 3572)

LEFT: White cropped sleeve shirt, £79, Equipement (0171-235 9868), black cotton/nylon trousers, £30, Marks & Spencer, from selected branches (0171-935 4422). White cotton hat, £27, Agnès b. Black leather mules, £69, Kurt Geiger, from branches nationwide (0171-629 8934)

Photographs: CHRIS CRAYMER
Hair: Ben Ahrens at John Frieda, using John Frieda products
Make-up: Sheila Carton at SWR
Model: Aisha
Stylist: Sharon Lovett at Streeters

STEPHEN KNIGHT: Cotton collarless shirt by Issey Miyake, £120, trousers by Prada, £195, from Browns, 23 South Molton Street, W1 (0171-491 7833). Loafers from Russell & Bromley, £145. Photograph: CHRIS HARRIS

ABOVE: White linen shirt, £49.95, and grey linen A-line skirt, £65, both from Jigsaw branches nationwide

RIGHT: White cap-sleeve shirt, £60, and black and beige striped skirt, £74, both from Agnès b, 111 Fulham Road, London SW3 and 58-62 Heath Street, London NW3 (0171-225 3477)

ABOVE: White cotton Lycra shirt, £25, Marks & Spencer. White nylon skirt, £175, DKNY (for inquiries, 0171-499 8089)

UNZIPPED

THE weekend's top party invitation was to Jasmin le Bon's midsummer soirée at her Putney home. Guests included the milliner Philip Treacy and the designer Anthony Price. Mr Price left in the early hours, but others appear to have outstayed their welcome. They were still there at 9am, and didn't leave until the cleaners were in view.

Added spice

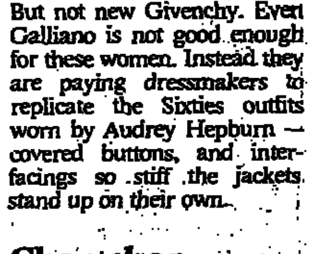
TOO chic to eat a curry, London's Anglo-Indian jetset are flocking to Café Lazeez in Kensington where their eclectic eating habits find recognition. The Evolved Menu combines chutney with chips, the Café Menu features the Frontier Burger — the NorthWest Frontier that is, not the Wild West one.

Film frills

RUMBLINGS of discontent from British designers. Just as they had got used to lending clothes to the stars free, actors' agents are now demanding that designers pay them before their clients will get out of bed to wear a $10,000 dress.

Go bananas

POPPING off to St Tropez for a weekend? Worried that your Prada purse is passé? Hermès has the answer: a banana wallet. Perfect for the loose change — though there won't be any from £325 — it will also cause heads to turn, embarrassing most men into picking up the tab.



Fruity Hermès wallet

Old money

THE latest look for ladies who lunch is Givenchy. But not new Givenchy. Even Galliano is not good enough for these women. Instead they are paying dressmakers to replicate the Sixties outfits worn by Audrey Hepburn — covered buttons, and interfacings so stiff the jackets stand up on their own.

Chop chop

CHEAP chopsticks are chic-est, according to Vong, the French Thai restaurant in Knightsbridge. Tests have shown that even the coolest clientele can't get a grip on their noodles with the more expensive black lacquered variety. Using a fork is, of course, a foodie faux pas. Getting galangal on the Gucci is all part of the fun.

HOT TIP

WANT to achieve **Calvin Klein-style minimalism on the cheap? Reluctant to spend even Kookai prices on flimsy little skirts and dresses? Head for the *Marks & Spencer lingerie* department. Their Tactel slips, priced at £15, come in different lengths and in black or white. Wear one over another and you have the perfect Forties flip skirt for a fraction of the designer price.**

SHELF LIFE: PAINTED TOES

STRAPPY sandals and thongs are everywhere this summer, so reach for the nail varnish. Chic toes will be painted in pastels and striking shades of blue and green.

We put six brands to the test, assessing colour, texture, ease of application and finish.

■ BOURJOIS. Rose Caresse, No 83, £3.25, 12ml. Rather thin and watery consistency. Finish is quite streaky. Colour is not too flattering and rather dull when dry. Needs four coats. Score: 4/10.

■ SPECTACULAR. Bubblegum, No 81, £1.20, 14ml. Available from Fenwicks and mail order (0181-900 1515). Good creamy texture. Very easy to apply. Only needs one to two coats. Be liberal otherwise it can be slightly like Tippex in appearance. Dries quickly and colour does not fade. Very affordable and extremely good quality. Score: 10/10.

■ REVLON. Pink Spicing, No 68, £5.95, 15ml. Strong shimmery shade. Good application although varnish tends to collect in the ridges of the nail. Needs only two coats. Score: 5/10.

■ CLARINS. Rose Glace, No 34, £10, 12ml. Slightly more sophisticated than candy colours. Beautiful texture, no streaking. Extremely easy to apply, quality polish. Needs two to three coats, but dries very quickly. Score: 8/10.

■ SHISEIDO. Pink Veil, £12, 15ml. Classic shade which would appeal to all ages, almost nude. Beautiful finish, perfect balance of texture. *Easy to apply, needs only one coat.* Score: 9/10.

■ ESTEE LAUDER. Perfect Sheer Pink, No 96, £9.50, 13ml. Hard to apply as very runny. *Once applied,* colour is a lovely subtle shade. Needs one coat. Score: 5/10.

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what we believe

Day Three: The orthodoxy of no God at all; plus an alluring oriental alternative

what I believe

MAX CLIFFORD

Do you believe in God? I believe in Christianity as a way of life.
Do you believe in ghosts? Not at all.
Is there life after death? *I would like to* think that something of our spirit lives on.
Do you believe in astrology? It's simply light relief and not to be taken seriously.
Do you think your sins will be punished? I believe we are *punished in this life*, even though sometimes it doesn't seem as if we are.
Have you ever prayed? Although I never go to church, I pray to God every day.
Does faith matter? I think without faith we are lost. It improves the quality of life, it gives us a set of guidelines by which to live.
Have you ever had a mystical experience? *I* speak to my mother Lilian all the time, even though she died many years ago. I have this feeling that she is always with me.

We atheists know right from wrong

MORALITY

Nigella Lawson

It feels almost tactless, in the middle of all this renewing of faith and wallowing in spirituality, to bring up the case *against God. But that's to put* it too inflammatorily: what needs to be put is the case for atheism.

I don't wish to be naïve about this. I recognise that it is assumed that atheism has *held* enough sway as it is, and what's more is held directly to blame for the fine moral mess we're all in now, and which so alarms the good Dr Carey. I recognise, too, that now might *not be the best time to reassert* my faith in it, that I thereby run the risk of sounding like those dejected souls at the fall of the Berlin Wall who declared (and not without justification, either) that socialism hadn't failed, it just hadn't been tried yet.

The religious, or perhaps more precisely the nominally religious but devotionally inactive, think of atheism in purely negative terms. This is why in any argument an atheist is perceived to be essentially nihilistic, morally hollow if not morally bankrupt. But to be an atheist is not *simply to have a vacuum* where other people have belief: it is a positive unbelief. It *is a choice, an intellectual and* moral choice.

And it's no good arguing *that without a religious framework* there can be no moral framework, because we know that practically it doesn't work like that. Religion doesn't make people good, nor make them make good choices. It can, of course, describe an intention to be good, do good, but it can also take away responsibility for moral choices. It is a case in point that there is a disproportionately high number of Roman Catholics convicted and sent to jail. Now, I wouldn't for one minute claim that Catholicism, or any faith, leads to criminal activity or underlines *a criminal disposition. But if* what is good or bad is seen to reside outside oneself, then so *does some of the responsibility* for it.

Religion gives rules, it provides order. *Surely it requires* a greater sense of morality to vest these rules, this order within oneself. Atheism as a rigorous, committed humanism attempts to do just that. It says that the meaning of life doesn't rest in some afterlife, access to which is governed by a strict system of reward and *punishment, but in life itself.* Thus, for the atheist, virtue is indeed its own reward. There's no heavenly bribe to make us do good, or hellish torment to keep us from doing ill.

John Patten once said that *people* would behave better if they had the fear of God put in them, that children would behave better if they were threatened with a bit of fire and brimstone. In a less *vigorous way, this is what Dr* Carey is saying, too. I'm not sure that the fear of hell and *damnation is a failsafe incentive to be good.* It should be, of course, but it hasn't been so in the past. What made people behave better, with more sense of community, in the past was not so much the wrath of God but the wrath of the neighbours. It is social values that we need to consider here, rather than spiritual ones.

Yes, they are linked, and of course a shared sense of values needs to underline this sense of community, but I don't believe that depends on *active churchgoing. Historically* speaking we necessarily share values: whether reli*gious or not we are shaped by* the Judaeo-Christian tradition. Perhaps where we have *fallen down is not in failing to* instil a sense of God, but in failing to understand how important it is to be imbued with a sense of culture.

But to be without one doesn't necessitate being without the other. I was brought up an atheist and have always remained so. But at no time was *I led* to believe that morality was unimportant or that good and bad did not exist. I believe *passionately in* the need to distinguish between right and wrong and am somewhat confounded by being told *I* need God, Jesus or a clergyman to help me to do so. More: I'm offended. And one is constantly being told how offensive is a lack of faith to believers.

As I say, somehow to treat religion with*out the respect its* apologists demand is seen to be coarse and inconsiderate. But I see no evidence of any tolerance shown by the religiously inclined towards those of us who, on a point of equal principle, are unbelievers. I happen to think there are worse things in life than being offended. I am sure enough of my intellectual and moral stand on this one to withstand any amount of prodding and probing, and I wonder only why those who are wounded *on behalf of God feel so unsure* of theirs.

I don't denounce the reli*gious impulse, but I question* how we should interpret it. The very human history of God and religion is just one way of describing what we feel is important, but it is just as possible to share that very sense of what is important without recourse to metaphor, which is all, in effect, that religion surely is.

NETWORK

Christians have no monopoly on morality; indeed, religion can dilute moral responsibility

what I believe

JOHN ASPINALL

Do you believe in God? I believe in the natural world. I worship the forces of nature — earthquakes, tidal waves, volcanic eruptions, great famines.
Do you believe in ghosts? The spirits of the past are with us in our genes.
Is there life after death? Our immortality resides in our genes.
Do you believe in astrology? Who knows what influence the gravitational force of the Moon has on us?
***Do you think your* sins will be punished?** I think you're punished in this world if you do violence to your own view of yourself.
Have you ever prayed? I never pray.
Does faith matter? Faith is important. You have to believe in yourself, in your tribe and in your country.
Have you ever had a mystical experience? I have experienced moments of mysticism when animals have been able to share my thoughts.

Where the spirit meets reason

BUDDHISM

Buddhist monks at prayer

What makes Buddhism so attractive *an alternative to the* familiar orthodoxy of Western religion? Since detailed infor*mation about it first became* available around the middle of the last century, this oriental creed has exerted an enduring fascination on the Western imagination.

From the outset it appealed to a broad spectrum of society, from the intellectual to the plain curious. Today, its appeal is no less broad and its followers include celebrities such as Tina Turner and Richard Gere *as well as those* who have become disenchanted with established religion.

Its success lies in its ability to integrate two strands which have become *separate* in *Western culture: the spiritual* and the rational. Buddhism seems able to refresh the spiritual parts that Christian*ity can no longer reach. Unlike post-Reformation* Christianity, Buddhism is not embarrassed by belief in psychic powers and unseen forces, and displays an easy familiarity with both the cosmos and the human psyche.

Established religion — in retreat before science and the secular professions — has abdicated its claim to this territory. Many find Buddhism more in tune with modern life. Where Christianity offers counselling, Bud*dhism offers a sophisticated* spiritual technology.

The second reason for Bud*dhism's appeal is its* thoroughgoing rationalism in matters of doctrine, coupled with the absence of any requirement for uncomprehending faith or belief. Scientific discoveries, and theories such as evolution, have challenged many Christian teachings, and the long rearguard action fought by established religion in defence of revealed "truths" has made it seem dogmatic, irrational, and *backward-looking. By* contrast there seem few Buddhist doctrines which are in direct conflict with science.

The absence of an anthropomorphic concept of deity is another feature which makes Buddhism more acceptable to the modern mind. Even belief in reincarnation — one of the more exotic aspects of Buddhism — is rapidly becoming part of popular culture.

It is undogmatic, even to the extent of instructing its followers not to accept its own *teachings* uncritically. Its moral teachings are not expressed as commandments in the imperative form but as rational principles which, if followed, will lead to the good and happiness of oneself and others. The Buddhist toleration of alternative viewpoints contrasts with some of the *darker episodes in the history* of Western religion.

Buddhism has one great — if unfair — advantage over Christianity: it has not yet "failed" in the way that established religion is widely perceived to have done. However, it seems to lack a "social gospel" and is largely silent on contemporary moral issues. Searching questions remain to be asked when the *honeymoon is over.*

DAMIEN KEOWN

● *This article contains extracts from the author's forthcoming book* Buddhism: A Very Short Introduction, *to be published by Oxford University Press on October 3. The writer is Senior Lecturer in Indian Religion at Goldsmiths' College, University of London.*

what I believe

KEN LIVINGSTONE

Do you believe in God? *I used to believe in Jesus* when I was at school, then I became an atheist and now I consider myself to be an agnostic.
Do you believe in ghosts? My mother and my grandmother used to visit spiritualists and it was the inexplicable accuracy of some of the messages they received that made me question my *earlier atheism.*
Is there life after death? What defines us as human beings is the data that is stored is our brain cells and I just don't know what happens to that when we die. There are things in life that are simply inexplicable.
Do you blieve in astrology? It is absolute rubbish.
Do you think your sins will be punished? I am certain that there is no God watching us and passing judgment on our sins.
Have you ever prayed? I did as a child.
Does faith matter? I think you have to have some sort of framework *by which you can try to* develop a civilised way of living. Religion provides one kind of framework. We are animals and the entire 10,000 years of human civilisation has been about trying to build frameworks to control our instincts.

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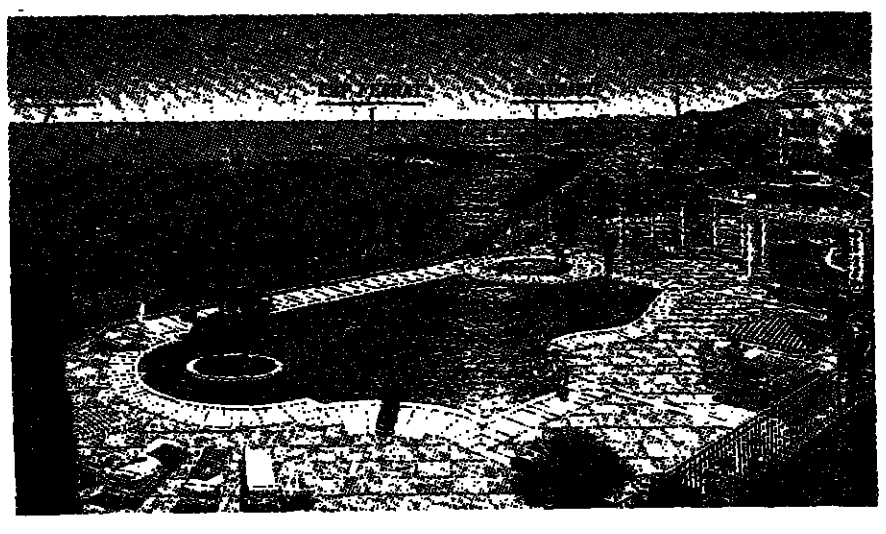

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Alan Coren

■ Doctors can alleviate the NHS cash crisis with a more personal service

Forgive, if you can *find it in your hearts* to, *any slapdashery* you come across in today's dissertation — dangling participles, anacolutha, catachresis, stuff like that — *because my immensely important* contribution to this week's increasingly burning debate has to be frantically cobbled together against the clock *if it is to be in time for* tomorrow's keynote BMA conflagration, and I cannot sit here all day fretting about syntax. *Indeed, as soon as I am done, I may very well* rush down to Brighton personally, insinuate myself into the Metropole Hotel (I have a *charcoal-grey whistle, and know where to* lay my hands on a stethoscope for its top pocket) and raise from the conference floor *the points hereinunder appended*, as we delegates say, plus any more I can think of on the train.

For tomorrow the BMA *is scheduled* to debate whether the moment might not have come to relax the draconian strictures *prohibiting sexual relations between doc*tors and their patients, and I have two penn'orth that I wish keenly to put into the *discussion. Possibly three penn'orth, for this* matter — notwithstanding yesterday's compassionate barrage on this very page by *Libby Purves — should be not about ethics at* all, but about money, since it is being addressed only three days after that same conference was *told* that the NHS faced a shortfall of £6 billion, and culturally that must surely count for far more than the mere moral rights or wrongs of two people, instead of just one, going behind the screen and taking their kit off.

Now, all week we have been hearing that the core of the issue is not simply that male doctors are immensely attractive to female patients, but that they are so immensely *more* attractive than the males the female patients have already got that the patients see the former as the cure for the chronic *malaise brought on* by the latter. Half the women in the average waiting-room, it seems, are ill be*cause they are sexually unhappy*, and all that is required to put the roses back in their cheeks, they firmly believe, is a romp with *their GP*.

If this is indeed the case, the NHS is *sitting on a goldmine*, and the BMA should be enjoined not merely to allow doctor-patient shenanigans, but actively to encourage them by incorporating them as treatment. Under this scheme, doctors would be empowered to prescribe, where indicated, a dose of themselves — for, of course, a fair fee to be proportionally remitted, via the fundholding arrangements, to the NHS. This fee would naturally have to be *within the purse-reach of the* average patient (but perhaps waived, as now, for OAPs), which is to say in line with such other *supplementary* charges as dentures, wigs, spectacles, walking-sticks, and so forth; though a commensurately larger fee should, I suggest, be demanded from patients wishing to see a specialist. Thus the nation would become the beneficiary of a service which would, at a stroke, reduce *wide-scale suffering*, offer a just and reasonable reward to doctors for the extra work involved, bring much-needed resources to *the desperately underfunded* NHS *(remember* that treatment will not incur any of the usual profit-denting outgoings such as *cutting-edge equipment, ancillary staff*, ambulances, or drugs — except, perhaps, for a pre-medicational gin and a post-operative *fag) and at the same time maintain* a commendably professional relationship, currently sadly lacking, between the carnally engaged.

I do stress that this benefit must be available to all, which is why I was at pains *to stipulate* the reasonableness of the fee. The last thing we need is a two-tier sexual service: the notion of well-heeled queue-*jumping private patients* collaring the most fanciable consultants, even spiriting them off for long Antibes weekends or setting them up in convenient Harley Street boudoirs, is not only inimical to the caring NHS spirit, it would almost certainly exacerbate *the condition it was designed to* alleviate by causing a trickle-down effect likely to consign the nation's poorer sufferers to some clapped-out *deputising* locum with bad breath and torn underwear. Not at all what the patient ordered.

And totally unethical.

As England warms up for Wembley, **John Redwood** asks if Chancellor Kohl is preparing to bully Europe

Stand up to Germany, on and off the field

England's *football fixture* against Germany has raised more than the usual hyperbole, lurid headlines and 'hot air. *There is something* special about the contest. It has stirred deep feelings.

It invites us all to think again about the problem of *Germany. The German* question has bedevilled Europe in the 20th century. When peace followed the Allies' victory in 1945, the German *question was temporarily resolved by* splitting Germany, by occupying it, by disarming it. Germany responded magnificently by *establishing a flourishing* democracy in the West, turning to the arts of peace and pursuing trade, industry and prosperity.

For 45 years, this settlement worked. The German question was suspended, replaced by the issue of how far communism would expand, and how West Berlin could be defended against a Soviet takeover. The threat of the Soviet Union's military might kept the United *States strongly committed to peace* in Europe, and kept the centre of Europe weak. The German plains were used for *Nato or Soviet tank-training*.

The world has been slow to adjust to the pulling down of the Berlin Wall and *the greater collapse of authoritarian* communism. America remains adamant in defence of the West, but would *like to reduce this commitment.* Helmut Kohl, Germany's Chancellor, having reunited the country, within its 1945 *boundaries, is now proposing that this* bigger, stronger country be locked into a wider European Union — or else, he says, *it might throw its weight around.* His Germany is still uncertain about how much to rearm and what role its armed forces should have.

*The French Government seeks mone*tary union to curb the German mark, and is prepared to accept political union as the price. The French people are *growing increasingly hostile and restive* as the cost of the economic policy mounts daily and as inner fears come to the surface. Italy, Spain, Greece and Portugal are nervously wondering whether they will be allowed in, while Britain and Scandinavia wonder aloud *if they will be permitted* to stay out.

What is the modern German problem? Chancellor Kohl seems to fear a return to German expansionism, yet modern Germany is a peace-loving democracy. It would lose a lot by *disrupting the peace*, and is not as heavily armed as Britain or France, let alone America. The easy answer to the *fears of some countries* is to carry on with Nato and maintain the present military balance. It is also important to *follow economic policies* that promote employment, technology and open trade rather than the opposite.

It is true that many Germans still live outside the borders of Germany. There are Germans living in the Czech Republic, in Poland, in Hungary and in *Austria. But why should this again* become an issue which could disfigure international politics? For 50 years the position has been stable. There does not *need to be any change* in boundaries. It would only become a worry if Germany changed as it changed in the 1930s, and used *this as an excuse to lay claim to* other countries.

The big difference between the peace of 1919 and the peace of 1945 lay in the way Germany was handled. In 1919, revenge led the Allies to damage the German economy, demanding substantial *reparations for financial loss. In* 1945, the Allies concentrated on helping Germany to rebuild its shattered economy and to construct a stable democracy, while ensuring that Germany was no longer heavily armed. The 1945 approach was much more successful than that of 1919.

Chancellor Kohl is living in the past. *Nazism* was born of poverty in the German people. Hitler responded to the lack of national self-esteem caused by the *punitive* peace and the defeat, and found there a ready recruiting ground for barbarism. Today there is no worry of extreme right-wing or extreme *left-wing groups winning* elections and then overthrowing the democracy.

Chancellor Kohl's language is more worrying. *He seems to be saying to the* governments of Western Europe that Germany may bully now that she is bigger. He offers us the favour of joining *Germany's idea of a federal European* state before it is too late. Britain must say no. The only answer, were Germany ever to bully us, *is to stand up to it.* The picture of Tony Blair alongside Chancellor Kohl revealed the naïvety of new Labour standing in the shadow of the new Germany.

The United States would rather not have to worry about Europe. There is a strand of thinking in the State Department and Washington which likes the idea of dealing with one big power *in* Europe. But shortly after German reunification there was a shiver of understanding of how that might go wrong when Germany cut its own deal with Russia. There was another when the European Community found it very difficult to line up alongside the free-traders in the Gatt debates.

Britain should *remind America* that *recent wars in Europe* have taken place in federations that do not hold the loyalty and support of their constituent countries. Yugoslavia broke apart as *soon as the communist dictatorship* was overthrown. The Russian federation has plunged into civil war on its borders. Against such a background it is difficult *to understand* the argument that a bigger European federation is the way to guarantee the peace.

The *United States* and Britain must *remain* the principal defenders of democracy and free trade. Together we must be the backbone of Nato, *which must continue to guarantee* the peace of Europe and the security of nations. We should insist on a free, outward-looking, open-trading Europe. *We should avoid building an exclusive* Western Europe which leaves people in the East looking across with jealousy or fear in their eyes. We must ensure *that* the German *problem* is resolved by keeping the present balance in Western Europe, and by ensuring democratic *and peaceful solutions to the* vexatious problems of identity and culture.

Football is a good way of letting off *steam. We should remember* it is only a game. It is good sometimes to ask the basic questions about Britain's relation*ship with Germany*. It will be even better to watch the match safe in the knowledge that Nato will keep the peace *and the European Union* will assist with trade. Win or lose, it is time for Britain to give some alternative leadership *to Europe, based on our mature* understanding of the realities of power on our continent.

Major's last hurrah: the 11-plus

Gillian Shephard's White Paper is a shambles which cannot conceal the cruelty of segregating children too early

Simon Jenkins

Benito Mussolini chose Italy's railway stations as network citadels *of his power. He show*ered each one with money and patronage, and for a while it worked. Trains ran to time. *In his twilight* of despair, John Major has chosen grammar schools. The image of these institutions beckons to him from the glorious Fifties. In every town he sees pennants fluttering over gilded academies. *Within* are gathered a chosen *few, to be instilled* with Conservative *spirit*. There he will sow the seeds of Tory renaissance. Grammar schools will supply the Ma*jorettes of the Millennium.*

Up to a point. Yesterday's White Paper on grammar schools is so *spattered with Whitehall blood as to be* nearly incomprehensible. The Education Secretary, Gillian Shephard, has fought Norman Blackwell, *the Downing* Street policy chief, to a standstill. In the past week the spin-doctors have gone giddy. We have had a grammar school in every town *(The Times)* or, quite different, a grammar stream in every school *(The Daily Telegraph)*.

The White Paper is an intellectual shambles. It confuses two incompatible forms of school enrolment: parental *choice and academic selection. It mixes* selection by aptitude with selection by ability. It veers between greater school autonomy *and central diktat. Institu*tional diversity is entangled with institutional hierarchy. The paper is obsessed with grammar schools and contemptuous of comprehensives. Local bureaucracy is rightly curtailed, but there is no talk of curbing Britain's grand new NHS, the Funding Agency for Schools.

When the Tories returned to power in 1979, they confronted a secondary *system* that was diverse to a fault. There were all-through comprehensives and two-tier systems. There were breaks at *13, 14 or 15, some of them academically* selective, some not. There were four-year high schools and sixth-form colleges. There were grammars and secondary moderns. This was hardly a "dreary uniformity", as described by Mrs *Shephard in yesterday's Times.*

Margaret Thatcher's principal innovation was to increase the scope for parents to influence which school their children go to, without actually moving house. By encouraging popular schools *to expand, she gave poorer ones* an incentive to pull their socks up. The policy was abused, especially in big cities, *where surviving grammars creamed the* sixth forms of struggling comprehensives, reducing some to little more than the old secondary moderns. In a vigorous debate — those were the days — the Tory Right had an answer to this: a *loaded vouchers* scheme and open enrolment. Tory ministers did not have the courage of that conviction. Nor did the Treasury.

The way they were: pupils sitting the 11-plus in 1964, on the eve of the comprehensive revolution

Parental choice is now vanishing from Tory education policy just like the Cheshire Cat's smile. Mrs Shephard says *she wants "selection as a regular* feature" of British secondary education. But her sort of selection is selection by *school, not by parents*. Any student of school enrolment knows that there is no such thing as partial selection. Make *any school's entry exclusive and the* outcome is straightforward. As in selective Buckinghamshire or Kent, every *primary child sits the* 11-plus exam. Those selected by the grammar school are offered a place. The schools for those *rejected* are not true comprehensives. This is Hobson's choice. It insults public intelligence to call it otherwise.

The White Paper is almost entirely in code. It follows the 1944 Education Act in assuming that roughly a third of British *children* can be assessed in infancy as suited to (let's face it) better schools than the rest. As in 1944, much euphemism *surrounds the remainder*, mostly waffle about "technical specialism". Politicians may be fooled, but not parents. Before *1965. 70* per cent of *British* children went to second-rate schools, knew it, and hated it. The post-1965 comprehensive *system had its* faults, *not least* because it came at a time of misguided teaching theory. *Grammar schools, which should* have continued as high schools or sixth-form colleges, were too often ruined. But vastly more children received a decent education than before, and numbers staying in the system after 16 soared.

Since then, all surveys and local votes indicate that parents have continued to regard 11-plus segregation as coming far too early. What they want, and mostly get, is streaming within schools. This policy — "a grammar stream in every school" — is supported by Labour and exists in most education authorities and schools. It has nothing to do with grammar schools, and is no offence to comprehensive transfer at 11. But this does not offer Downing Street the "clear blue water" between its policy and Labour's. So Mrs Shephard must declare that the gains of the past three decades have "lowered standards alarmingly". This is untrue and does *no* credit to her or the service she leads.

She is ordered to find new grammar *schools. They are to be created not with* new money but by inducing the most popular comprehensives to leave competition behind *and to "opt in" to a national* system, run by the Funding Agency for Schools. All pretence that these schools, *which now educate about 20* per cent of secondary pupils, are not engaged in selection is abandoned. So claims to the contrary *(and to my face)* from successive Education Secretaries are lies: they always were. Mrs Shephard's department has tried to retain some local freedom. She at least believes that "governors, teachers and parents" know what is "best for the community" and should have some choice in the matter. Mr Major disagrees. He thinks he knows best, and he wants grammar schools everywhere.

More important, he wants the Funding Agency (that is, central government) to run these schools and to claim credit for the "most excellent" schools in the land. This upends what was once sound Tory philosophy, that the central State should direct most *help to those least* able to *fend* for themselves. Here the central State wants only the best. Last month the Government even mooted *that selective schools* might get money above their per capita entitlement as a reward for their popularity.

The means whereby "a grammar in every town" is to be pursued are grotesque. Funding Agency schools are *to be allowed to select 50 per cent of their* entry by academic test, compared with just 20 per cent for local council schools. *This is ludicrously unfair* and makes no sense: why not come clean and let all schools select? It also gives the lie to Mrs Shephard's claim that *hers* is not a two-tier *system. The device* is intended not just to persuade popular schools to opt for Funding Agency control; it also *ensures that schools* left behind will remain at a competitive disadvantage. The proposal is for a *social as well as an educational oligopoly — in the hope that* it may induce a few lucky 11-plus winners to vote Tory.

Such discrimination can only *harm* the schools in which the majority of children will be taught. Already Mrs Shephard's department *is* seeking to close 34 *sixth-forms* in Kent for fear of their competing with grammar schools. At the behest of parents, these schools *have been helping pupils* to recover from rejection in Kent's 11-plus by developing as comprehensives. Mrs Shephard's *civil servants mean to stop them. The* White Paper claims that the Agency can interfere in this way with council schools "to encourage competition". That must be a misprint for "stifle". Such cynicism must hasten the day when some European supreme court subjects Brit*ish policy to judicial review.*

I cannot believe this policy will fulfil its major premise, of bringing wavering Tories back to the party. *The only role* envisaged for parents in the White Paper is to vote to have the school that selects *(or rejects) their child run by Mrs Shep*hard's Funding Agency. Parents should beware. When past governments seized hospitals, prisons and, more recently, water companies from local councils, they also did so in the cause of rationalisation and efficiency. That is now a hollow laugh. Within five years, I bet the Agency will be delivering directives to "opted out" schools by the vanload.

After the 1965 reorganisation, I was convinced that wherever further reform might *lead*, it would not be back to institutional selection at 11. The divisiveness, the double-talk, the cruelty to children in their formative years, were too much to *stomach. The Tory party showed* political maturity in accepting this, though most 11-plus winners were its supporters. *Selection at 11 was too unfair. It was* for history's dustbin. We seem to be watching a party determined to join it there.

DIARY

Grey threat

ENGLAND *have reluctantly* accepted their grey football strip, but morale is likely to plummet even *further: our boys may now have to* put up with the Grey Man. John Major, Prime Minister and notorious jinx at sporting events, has *brought forward a speech he was* planning to make this evening, which leaves him time to attend the *semi-final against Germany.*

His supporters might welcome his attendance, but football fans are concerned. Whenever John *Major turns out to support his* team at Chelsea, they invariably lose. "People think 'Oh God' when they see him," explains a club executive. "They think they haven't a chance if he is there."

Major's nemesis came when Chelsea lost 4-0 to Manchester United in the 1994 FA Cup Final. Jeering Chelsea supporters chanted "Jonah, Jonah" at the bespectacled PM because he had brought them such bad luck. "We lose every time he attends Chelsea," says one fan. "He *should be banned.*"

The Prime Minister is not unaware of his predicament, and may yet avoid the match. So sensitive is he that he refused to allow photographers to snap him watching England's game against Spain on the *television in Florence.* "He banned all photographers," says a source. "He was very nervous."

● *The Oscar Foundation has a touch of the luvvies. It has sent a legal letter to Chris Woodhead, Chief Inspector of Schools, complaining about reports that he refers privately to his annual awards to outstanding schools as the education "Oscars".*

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Cluff

Shirty

A BIZARRE attempt to bring Euro 96 to Wimbledon was foiled yesterday. Alan Mills, the tournament referee, has refused a request from brothers Luke and Murphy Jensen, the American players who grabbed the headlines last year when Murphy was defaulted for going awol on a fishing trip. They wanted *to* play doubles matches in white England football shirts.

"We are pretty upset about it," says Murphy. "We were told that it was because they weren't tennis shirts, but Agassi's long-sleeved shirt with a zip down the middle did not look like a *tennis shirt and* he was allowed to wear it."

Close look

HENRY KISSINGER is in London, *doubtless hoping for another* glimpse of the cleavage of the Princess of Wales that he so admired at a society dinner last year in New York. But at a dinner this evening he will have to confine himself to the delights of Carla Powell, wife of Sir Charles. She has organised a *small soirée for him in the Marie* Antoinette Room at the Ritz, where the cast is limited to the John Redwoods, the Douglas Hurds and the *Malcolm Rifkinds.*

Big screen

RENTAL firms are enjoying a run on televisions as party hosts desperately try to persuade their guests not to stay at home and watch the football. Brian Eno, Bob Geldof and Mick Jagger have all *told Marie Helvin that they cannot* attend her summer party unless they can watch the match — so she has brought in three televisions.

Bill Kenwright, the theatrical impresario and director of Everton Football Club, has to sit through the first night of Neil Simon's play *The Odd Couple*, which he is staging, and follow on with a first night party. "I tried to postpone it but the critics wouldn't agree," he grumbles. "Three-quarters of the guest list have said 'no, thank you'."

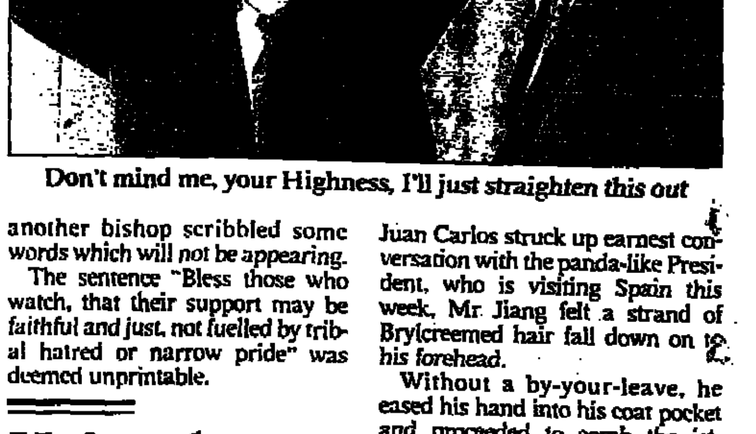
Bombs away

MORE excitement at the *Daily Mirror, where the youthful Editor* Piers Morgan apologised yesterday after his front page this week show*ing two England footballers* sporting tin helmets and demanding a German surrender.

"Guten" Morgan has a fine selec*tion of German uniforms stored in* a disused office in the *Mirror* building, with which he was planning to kit out his *Wehrmacht* reporters. One *Kommandant* at the newspaper had suggested hiring a Lancaster bomber to drop bouncing *inflatable bombs bearing the Mirror* logo along the Thames.

Both the uniforms and bouncing-bomb project have been abandoned, along with Guten's visionary plan to invade Germany in a tank driven by his troops. A conciliatory tone was adopted yesterday when the paper asked the Archbishop of Canterbury to write a football prayer. Dr Carey couldn't oblige, but another bishop scribbled some words which will *not be appearing.*

The sentence "Bless those who watch, that their support may be *faithful and just, not fuelled by* tribal hatred or narrow pride" was deemed unprintable.



Don't mind me, your Highness, I'll *just straighten this out*

Hair today

THE SPANISH court is reeling from an extraordinary breach of etiquette committed by the Chinese President Jiang Zemin. As King Juan Carlos struck up earnest conversation with the panda-like President, who is visiting Spain this week, Mr Jiang felt a strand of Brylcreemed hair fall down on to *his forehead.*

Without a by-your-leave, he eased his hand into his coat pocket and proceeded to comb the jet-black lock back into place. The King, whose own hair is receding, looked on quite speechless.

P·H·S

هكذا من الأصل

SHEPHARD'S STEPS

The Education White Paper inches in the right direction

It may not have been an act of vandalism to match the dissolution of the monasteries, but the dismantling of Britain's grammar schools and their replacement with comprehensives has done huge damage to generations of children. The selective system put in place by the 1944 Butler Education Act had its flaws but it did a great deal to make the nation's education more meritocratic. The Education White Paper published yesterday does not, however, attempt to put the clock back to the age of the 11-plus. The argument has moved on. Instead, the Government is trying to retrieve and remodel selection for the schools of today. There are impeccable educational reasons for this Government to encourage the spread of selection and Gillian Shephard's steps, though tentative, are in the right direction.

Selection is popular. An ICM poll in January suggested 71 per cent of the public supported local authorities who wished to re-introduce selection. A Harris poll in the same month for the Association of Teachers and Lecturers surprised the commissioning union when it showed that more than half the public were in favour of the reintroduction of grammar schools. Some of the support may be nostalgia but the prejudice of the public is backed up by the facts.

A study of the capacity of selective and comprehensive schools to improve educational performance was undertaken by the Department for Education and Employment in 1994. It found that surviving Grammar schools consistently produced better results from comparable pupils. Those in selective schools benefited from teaching more effectively targeted.

Opponents of selection generally concede that it benefits the gifted. They argue that Britain's most talented 20 per cent are not the problem. They point out, with some justice, that the weakness with the country's education system is its failure adequately to educate those of average and below-average ability. With ever fewer job opportunities for the unskilled, reform is necessary. But far from failing the less obviously able, selection offers the same benefits as it does the gifted — an opportunity to have an education tailored to their aptitudes. John Marks of the School Curriculum and Assessment Authority has conducted research which indicates that a quarter of the country's remaining secondary moderns have better GCSE results than the average comprehensive. Given that those secondary moderns cannot boast the same leavening of academic pupils, Dr Marks's research indicates that selection benefits all, not just the best.

The main weakness of the old selective system was its inflexibility. The White Paper's proposals are designed to entrench a more diverse system, by encouraging greater devolution of power from local authorities. Schools are to be given control of 95 per cent of their spending in the hope that greater autonomy will become addictive and more will opt for grant-maintained status.

Many grant-maintained schools will take the opportunity to select up to half their pupils on academic or other grounds. They recognise that selection sends the signal that a school takes standards seriously and can teach more effectively. No school is forced to select and many may choose to develop a speciality. Those schools which wish to preserve a broadly comprehensive ethos will at least have the chance to establish a "grammar stream" to encourage excellence.

Given the inertia of many teachers and the unassertiveness of many parents, the embrace of grant-maintained status has been slow. The spread of selection is, initially, unlikely to be much speedier. But, as results improve in those schools which manage their own affairs and are free to select, the benefits will become clearer. Headmasters of vision who believe in diversity, competition and standards should embrace both to ensure that if any future Education Secretary were to try to stifle choice from the centre, there could be no turning back.

THE CHINA TRAP

A game that makes China less and less attractive to investors

China's open door to trade and investment has a spring mechanism, engineered to trap the fingers of foreign politicians who presume to criticise Peking's record on human rights. Such is the lure of China's huge potential — a lure that dates back 100 years to the American rush to provide "oil for the lamps of China" — that Peking has been able to pursue this strategy with what it evidently considers to be success. It has used contracts as political carrots and sticks. Anxious businessmen, fearful that America's support for Taiwan or Britain's democratic reforms in Hong Kong will lose them contracts, have put pressure on politicians to avoid stepping on Chinese toes. The effect is to make China a less and less attractive country with which to do business.

Helmut Kohl has left America to worry about human rights and his reward has been to see German trade with China double in five years, to £12 billion, making it China's main European trading partner. Viewed from Peking, the high point in this warm partnership was last November when Herr Kohl, visiting China with a bevy of businessmen, became the first Western leader since the Tiananmen massacre to agree to inspect a Chinese military guard of honour.

This was, however, a gesture too far for many of Herr Kohl's compatriots. The Chancellor's China policy has come under mounting criticism even within his own Christian Democrat party. Earlier this month, the German Government again bowed to Chinese pressure, withdrawing official funding for a conference on Tibet in Bonn attended by the Dalai Lama. That led to an all-party resolution last week in the Bundestag, condemning "China's continued policy of repression in Tibet" and calling on Peking to open dialogue with the Dalai Lama's "government in exile".

Overnight, Germany became the latest country to discover how suddenly China's welcome mat can be whipped away. Told that Klaus Kinkel, the German Foreign Minister, would no longer be welcome in Peking next month, Bonn felt compelled in return to freeze official contacts. But Herr Kohl has kept silence, while Herr Kinkel lamely laments that this is all a misunderstanding and that despite German support for "cultural autonomy" in Tibet, "we want Tibet to continue to belong to China".

China's speed in turning the screw reflects its belief that Bonn is easily intimidated. Significantly, Peking chose last April to ignore a much tougher statement by 200 French parliamentarians. On the eve of an official visit to Paris by Li Peng, China's Prime Minister, they called on China to pull out of Tibet, accusing it of causing 1.5 million deaths there. Yet the visit went ahead and netted France £1.2 billion worth of business contracts.

Peking has done itself no favours in Germany even though, after a decent interval, it may well get its way with the Government. Worldwide, every incident like this encourages business to look at other, more predictable, emerging markets. There are already considerable costs and risks to doing business in China. Corruption is endemic and profit margins are meagre. Add to that political uncertainty over whether contracts will be honoured, and the balance begins to tilt in Western boardrooms in favour of India and other fast-growing economies where a deal once reached is less vulnerable to official whim. Peking acts as though the foreign investment it needs is China's to command. It may not always be so.

HEAVEN'S GATE

Hillary Clinton in conversation with supernatural role models

"Joni. Is this virtual therapy with a dead white woman politically correct? Are you really *the* Joan of Arc, the Maid of Orléans, *la Pucelle*? I have picked you for my representative heroine in man's clothing as an empowered sister who stood up against 50 centuries of male-dominated history. And the English imperialists oppressed you with worse than sensational charges of sexual, financial and legal misconduct. They burnt you with faggots — and I am not referring to anybody's sexual orientation. I see myself as the most wounded woman since you. Of course, our conversation is a purely intellectual exercise, not a spiritual event. I would not want to be mocked like Nancy Reagan for doing nothing without consulting her astrologer, or stereotyped by Bill Safire as Nuttergate and Deadgate in his scandalous attempts to equate everything we do in the White House today with Watergate. But this is a free-wheeling brainstorming dialogue to understand the difficulties and dangers of the role of First Lady in a chauvinist society."

"I heard my voices too, little sister, in the fields near Domrémy. They came from St Michael, St Catherine and St Margaret. And they told me to hold to what I had already said and rely on our Lord. So the Goddams burnt me for heresy. But how can what a woman like me believes be heresy? That is a contradiction in terms. Then 500 years after [illegible]int. Perhaps the comedians of nocturnal television (who have taken over the role of the Church) will canonise you too."

"And Eleanor, I identify with you in this creative teaching-learning process between women. You were First Lady for 12 years. You too grappled with the social issues of your day. In some of his little ways, your President was as impossible as Bill. And you suffered female crucifixion almost as bad as mine with slanders from the press and big business, and scandal of infidelity and your President's roving eye spread by the military-industrial complex through venal hacks. And through it all you stood up as your own woman: strong, compassionate, empowered, a true sister."

"Very nice of you to call, Mrs Clinton. No one can make you feel inferior without your consent. I certainly always let Franklin Delano know that I was superior to him, intellectually, politically and socially. But I took care to do so in private. Your problems arise because you do not bother to conceal your belief that you are smarter and more ethical than anyone else in public life."

"And now Mahatma Gandhi. Like me, you too were profoundly misunderstood in your work, when all you wanted to do was help others and make peace. What do you think of modern civilisation?"

"That, Mrs Clinton, would be a good idea."

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Power and politics within the EU

From Mr Leolin Price, QC

Sir, Our Government's policy is to reject all further steps towards a federal or other centralised government for the European Community; but Sir Roy Denman tells us (letter, June 21) that we "cannot stop the integration of continental Europe": and if he is right, the policy cannot succeed.

One existing reality is that, over wide areas of governmental activity, the Community is already a powerful, integrated, essentially federal superstate. We do not like it. Some of our masters would have us take steps which, whether or not intended, would extend inexorably the integration and the federal power.

But we did not join the Community in 1973 with a view to creating a *government* superior to ours at Westminster; and our choice now is clear: to preserve our constitution: to restore to Westminster lost governmental power; and not to be deterred by talk of troublesome economic consequences. (We used to have a modest trade surplus with our European friends; after 23 years of Community, there is a massive trade deficit with them and the language of friendship is often depressingly absent.)

Yours truly,
LEOLIN PRICE,
10 Old Square, Lincoln's Inn, WC2.
June 21.

From Ms Joyce Quin, MP for Gateshead East (Labour)

Sir, I do not believe your arguments as to the nature of the EU social chapter and the attitude of other EU countries towards it (leading article, June 20) are soundly based.

We need to remember that the social chapter actually says that the "Member States shall implement measures that take account of . . . the need to maintain the competitiveness of the Community economy". It goes on to say that the measures agreed should be implemented gradually — by consultation — and in such a way as to "avoid imposing administrative, financial and legal constraints in a way which would hold back the creation and development of small and medium-sized undertakings".

Labour's policies and Tony Blair's speech in Bonn (report, June 19) obviously fit in with this approach. Furthermore, the social costs on industry which do worry some of our competitors arise from their own particular systems of social security and taxation; these are not the responsibility of the social chapter or other EU policies, but arise from decisions made and implemented by their national governments.

Yours faithfully,
JOYCE QUIN (Opposition Spokesperson on Europe),
House of Commons.
June 20.

From the Chairman of the National Union of Conservative and Unionist Associations

Sir, The key condition which underpins the Prime Minister's success in Florence has been to move the beef issue from the arena of the soundbite and to subject it to rational scientific analysis. This will provide all parties with unbiased yardsticks against which progress can be measured.

Contrast this with the approach of the Labour Party, whose leader has within the last few days visited Germany to explain how his party wishes to be more closely integrated with Europe. Such a wish did not prevent him from criticising the Prime Minister at Question Time (report, June 21) for his negotiating position even before Mr Major had set out for Florence.

The public will remember that there is no more contagious political disease than that of cynical opportunism.

Yours faithfully,
ROBIN HODGSON, Chairman,
National Union of Conservative and Unionist Associations,
32 Smith Square, Westminster, SW1.
June 23.

From the Leader of the UK Independence Party

Sir, It is quite clear from your report on Sir James Goldsmith and article by John Redwood today that the UK Independence Party is now the only mainstream, democratic party in this country to advocate Britain's withdrawal from the European Union.

It is good to know that sections of the Conservative Party are following in our wake and that Sir James has made it absolutely clear that he is in favour of continued British membership of the EU. This will clarify the political debate in Britain.

However, I forecast that before very long it will be crystal clear that withdrawal is the only rational option. With any luck, the majority of voters will realise this before the next election.

Yours faithfully,
ALAN SKED, Leader,
The UK Independence Party,
80 Regent Street, W1.
June 20.

From Mr Christopher Billson

Sir, "Bravo Mr Major," say I. Dismal abyss has been replaced by a light at the end of the tunnel. No mean feat, given the circumstances.

Yours faithfully,
CHRISTOPHER BILLSON,
Mas de Roujol, 82190 Brassac, France.
June 24.

Case for restoring St Ethelburga's

From Professor Hugh Brogan

Sir, Contrary to what Mr Roger Simpson, RIBA, says (letter, June 18) I can assert that before the Bishopsgate bomb St Ethelburga was *not* "redundant, unnoticed and disused". I visited it myself, for example, and well remember how moving it was to stand in so old a church which had survived so many disasters — above all the Great Fire and the Blitz.

I did not foresee what the IRA criminals would do to it, and nothing can give us back St Ethelburga's as it was, but as complete a restoration as possible is what the church and the City deserve.

It would demonstrate, as nothing else could, a determination never to be defeated by terrorists, whereas the scheme favoured by the diocese and the architectural profession would amount to no more than a wringing of the hands in metal and glass; a kind of sentimental wishful thinking. We have had enough of that.

Yours sincerely,
HUGH BROGAN,
Reform Club, Pall Mall, SW1.
June 18.

From Mr Edmund Gray

Sir, Why should it be "reactionary architectural prejudice" (Professor Maxwell Hutchinson's letter, June 18) on the part of the City planning committee to prefer the faithful restoration of a medieval church, two thirds of which survive, to a scheme to enclose the ruins in a glass box?

One does not have to be an anti-modernist to regard a glass box as entirely inappropriate for a church whose essential character was that of an ancient, intimate, and secluded place amidst the bustle of the modern City.

The wonderful late-Gothic churches of St Lorenz and St Sebaldus in Nuremberg, both desperately smashed in the Second World War, are examples of the innumerable continental churches faithfully restored since then.

I challenge anyone who visits them to say that a glass-box solution would have been preferable.

Yours faithfully,
EDMUND GRAY,
85a Stockwell Park Road, SW9.
June 19.

Becket's casket

From Sir Stephen Hastings

Sir, Your support for the retention of the Becket chasse is indeed welcome (leading article, June 15; see also letter, June 20). It would be an appalling comment on our sense of heritage for it to go abroad. It should be displayed as a memorial to Becket, of course, but there is another aspect of its history of particular interest to those who are trying to raise funds urgently needed for Peterborough Cathedral.

Abbot Benedict, who is believed to have commissioned the chasse, had been a close associate of Becket. He was appointed Abbot of Peterborough six years after the murder. On arrival he found the abbey church still under construction and deep in debt, to the tune of 1,500 marks, or about three times the abbey's annual income. He is said to have returned to Canterbury "to meditate" — as well he might.

Benedict came back as the chancellor of the cathedral has explained (report, June 15), equipped with the archbishop's shirt, fragments of stone stained with his blood, and with two phials of the blood itself. His access to these items may well be accepted. He was probably "within earshot of the murder" and wrote one of the earliest accounts of the event. Moreover he was himself custodian of the relics.

Pilgrims at Peterborough flocked to see them, and were invited, for the sum of one farthing, to receive a cup of water containing a tiny drop of the martyr's blood. Trade was brisk and the finances of the great enterprise rapidly improved.

Would it not be appropriate if this splendid reliquary should be returned to the Becket Chapel in the cathedral precinct, where in all probability its story and its purpose began.

Yours faithfully,
STEPHEN HASTINGS (Chairman, Peterborough Cathedral Development and Preservation Trust),
Laurel Court, 22 Minster Precincts,
Peterborough, Cambridgeshire.
June 18.

Cowboy builders

From the Chief Executive of the Institute of Plumbing

Sir, Your report, "Handymen 'terrorised family'", and the letter from Mr Ronald Bernstein, QC, both today, highlight once again the "cowboy cancer" which blights our industry, thus giving everyone a bad name.

I was a member of the government-sponsored "Beat the Cowboys" working party which reported in 1988. Like the recent report from the Justice committee, which Mr Bernstein chaired, the working party made some excellent recommendations on how the problem could be tackled, short of statutory registration. Our report even identified the characteristics of good and bad builders.

There is no political will to tackle this issue, because many of the remedies are at odds with government open-market and deregulation policies. The best we can hope for is help in identifying individuals and firms who voluntarily commit themselves to proper standards and behaviour through membership of bone fide professional associations.

Yours faithfully,
ANDY WATTS,
Chief Executive and Secretary,
The Institute of Plumbing,
64 Station Lane, Hornchurch, Essex.
June 20.

From Mr Christopher Harris

Sir, Your letter from Mr Ronald Bernstein, QC, of Justice, was most timely. The sooner the Government recognises the problem of sub-standard suppliers of goods and services, and not just in the building industry, the better.

Mr Bernstein's main point, that there should be a statutory insurance scheme to protect the consumer from the consequences of unsatisfactory work, is manifestly correct.

There are a number of bodies that purport to vet and accredit suppliers of goods and services. Fair Trades, one of the sponsors of the Educational Management Exhibition, 1997, provides an insurance safety net for customers of its members. Because these members are carefully vetted, customers rarely need to call upon this, but it gives them vital peace of mind.

Apart from private customers, purchasers in health and education who account for a large proportion of state spending need this kind of security. Heaven knows how much state money is wasted on contracts that, unfortunately, go wrong.

Yours faithfully,
CHRISTOPHER HARRIS,
Multimedia Exhibitions Limited,
1-3 Brigstock Parade,
Thornton Heath, Surrey.
June 21.

Conference facilities

From Miss Margaret Hallendorff

Sir, Mr John Studd (letter, June 21) makes a number of very important points. London has long needed dedicated conference facilities with sufficient exhibition space to house not only international, but also large national meetings.

I would agree that the facilities in Birmingham are amongst the best that Europe has to offer and it is a great pity that negative perceptions of the city persist. Certainly, as far as we are concerned, for large meetings with complex requirements it is the leader in the United Kingdom.

The city fathers of Edinburgh too have realised the need for an international centre. The Edinburgh International Conference Centre, which opened recently, has excellent facilities so that now there is a choice of venue. With their plans for further expansion very large meetings will be possible in the capital of Scotland. It seems a great pity that London has been unable to do the same.

I hope that the suggestion made by Mr Studd that National Lottery funds be used to develop a centre in London does not fall on deaf ears.

Yours sincerely,
MARGARET HALLENDORFF
(Executive Officer),
The Royal College of Ophthalmologists,
17 Cornwall Terrace, NW1.
June 21.

Teachers taught

From Mrs Helga Harrison

Sir, To Dr Van Praagh's "He who cannot teach, trains teachers" (letter, June 22), may I add "He who cannot train teachers becomes an educationist"?

Yours truly,
HELGA HARRISON,
3 Westfield Lane,
St Leonards-on-Sea, East Sussex.
June 23.

From Mrs Margaret E. Tabor

Sir, I thought that in these days "He/she who can, teaches. He/she who cannot, is an Ofsted inspector."

Yours sincerely,
MARGARET E. TABOR,
7 Blenheim Close,
Oxhey, Watford, Hertfordshire.
June 22.

From Mr Tim Piper

Sir, Your correspondence on teaching put me in mind of a verse which I have remembered over the years and which seems admirably to echo the sentiments expressed by Dr Van Praagh, namely:

No teacher I of boys or smaller fry,
No teacher I of teachers. No, not I!
Mine was the distant aim, the longer reach,
To teach men how to teach men how to teach.

Yours faithfully,
TIM PIPER,
14 Reynolds Close,
Hampstead Way, NW11.
June 25.

Letters to the Editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — 0171-782 5046.

Rail route threat to Odin's rites

From Dr Paul Ashbee

Sir, Although there is nothing to connect Kent's White Horse Stone with Odin (report, later editions, June 18), the members of the Odinic Rite are to be commended for their endeavours to secure a diversion of the Channel Tunnel rail link (CTRL).

The stone probably remains from a stone-built long barrow, one of the Medway Group of which Kit's Coty House is the best known, thrown down by medieval iconoclasts.

Built from huge blocks of sarsen stone, they were some of the most grandiose of their kind. Great blocks still abound on Blue Bell Hill and, because of their size, it is possible that some of Stonehenge's sarsen stones came from Kent, the only significant source other than northern Wiltshire.

This important group of monuments will be blighted by the close proximity of the CTRL, which also threatens many ancient sites in the Gault and Greensand corridor, a part of Kent archaeologically sensitive and largely unknown.

This railway project appears to have scant regard for the Medway's long barrows or Kent's archaeological heritage.

Yours faithfully,
PAUL ASHBEE
(Member, Royal Commission on Historical Monuments (England), 1975-85),
The Old Rectory,
Chedgrave, Norwich, Norfolk.
June 16.

From Mr Gerald Grainge

Sir, I hope that their lordships examining the Channel Tunnel Rail Link Bill will seek evidence from reputable historians and archaeologists before they give credence to what they heard from the self-styled Odinists about the site of their ceremonial rites.

To ascribe the victory at the Battle of Aylesford to Angles rather than Jutes is perhaps a triviality; not to recognise that the cult of Odin was a bloodthirsty and barbaric religion, involving both human and animal sacrifice, is not. Adam of Bremen's 11th-century account of the sacred grove at Old Uppsala, with men, horses and dogs hanging from the trees, male victims all, is simply the most notorious example.

Yours faithfully,
G. GRAINGE,
Malt Lodge,
Malt Mews, St Margaret's Street,
Rochester, Kent.
June 19.

Stones of Stonehenge

From Dr John Leveson Gower

Sir, Geoffrey Wainwright's review of John North's *Stonehenge and the Origins of Astronomy* (Books, June 20) was a fair, critical review of an important book that indeed, as Dr Wainwright mentions, "was completed before the appearance in October 1995 of the definitive book on Stonehenge" by Cleal, Montague and Walker (*Stonehenge in its Landscape*).

Having discussed in detail the origins of the stones that make up Stonehenge in many lectures over the years and hopefully dispelled the myth that many non-archaeologists have that the stones all came from Wales, I read with incredulity English Heritage's chief archaeologist saying that "for the English it [Stonehenge] is a national heritage icon, even though the stones for it were brought from Wales".

Part of the fascination of Stonehenge is the myths that have grown up over the centuries. Perhaps in a very small way Dr Wainwright has added his contribution.

Yours etc,
JOHN LEVESON GOWER,
The Chalet, The Square,
Winscombe, North Somerset.
June 20.

Ups and downs

From Mr Basil Mahon

Sir, No wonder Mr A. G. Phillips is confused (letter, June 20) by apparently contradictory rises and falls in population statistics. The projections he refers to which have been revised up, are for households, not population. However, the trend is towards fewer people living in each household so the number of households can increase even if the total population falls.

Births now exceed deaths, but that is likely to remain so only while the 1960s "baby boomers" continue to have children. The projection of a population fall in about 20 years still stands.

Yours faithfully,
BASIL MAHON
(Director, Population Statistics),
Office for National Statistics,
St Catherine's House,
10 Kingsway, WC2.

Following suit

From Mr David Robinson

Sir, It's one thing for a Prime Minister to jump on the bandwagon of England's footballing success; but surely asking the team to play in his colour is going a bit too far.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID ROBINSON,
15 Sefton Street, Putney, SW15.
June 25.

COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
June 25: Mr Harry Seidler, winner of *The Queen's Gold Medal for* Architecture, was received by Her Majesty.

Mrs Seidler was also received by The Queen.

Sir Michael Partridge (former Permanent Secretary, Department of Social Security) was received by Her Majesty.

The following were received by The Queen as Her Majesty's Ambassadors: *Mr Richard Edis (the Republic of Tunisia)*, Mr Robert Gordon (Burma), Mr Peter Harborne (the *Slovak Republic) and Mr Peter* Marshall (the Democratic and Popular Republic of Algeria).

Mrs Edis, Mrs Gordon, Mrs Harborne and Mrs Marshall were also received by Her Majesty.

The Queen, Captain General, Honourable Artillery Company, this afternoon opened the renovated Finsbury *Barracks, City Road, London* ECI.

Her Majesty was received at *Armoury House by Her Majesty's* Lord-Lieutenant of London (Field Marshal the Lord Bramall KG) and the Colonel Commandant (General Sir Michael Wilkes).

The Queen was received on Parade with a Royal *Salute and inspected the* Regimental Guard of Honour.

Her Majesty toured the Barracks, *escorted by the Commanding Officer* (Lieutenant Colonel Simon Lalor), and subsequently attended a Reception.

The Rt Hon John Major MP (Prime Minister and First Lord of the *Treasury) had an audience of The* Queen this evening.

The Duke of Edinburgh today *visited Cambridge and was received* by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Cambridgeshire (Mr James Crowden).

His Royal Highness, Chancellor, this morning visited Cambridge *University Boat Club.*

The Duke of Edinburgh afterwards visited Work Opportunities Through *Self Help, Neath Farm Business* Park, Cherry Hinton, Cambridge.

His Royal Highness later visited Cambridge *University.*

*The Duke of Edinburgh this eve*ning attended a Dinner at St Edmund's College, Cambridge University.

The Lady Susan Hussey has succeeded the Hon Mary Morrison as *Lady in Waiting to Her Majesty.*

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
June 25: The Princess Royal, President, the Missions to Seamen, today *attended the Annual Service and* Annual General Meeting in St Michael Paternoster Royal, College Hill, *London EC4, and the Annual Lun*cheon at Skinners' Hall, Dowgate Hill.

Her *Royal Highness, President*, Animal Health Trust, this evening attended a Gala Evening at Chatsworth, Bakewell, and was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Derbyshire (Mr John Bather).

CLARENCE HOUSE
June 25: Miss Jane Walker-Okeover has succeeded the Lady Angela Oswald as Lady-in-Waiting to Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother.

ST JAMES'S PALACE
June 25: The Prince of Wales today visited Belfast and was received by the Rt Hon Sir Patrick Mayhew MP *(Secretary of State for Northern* Ireland).

His Royal Highness this morning *opened the new headquarters of the* Northern Ireland Blood Transfusion Centre, met staff and presented *Blood* Donor Awards.

The Prince of Wales, President, The Prince's Trust, later visited Mountcollyer Youth Club and met staff and members of the Club, and representatives of The *Prince's Trust.*

His Royal Highness this afternoon opened the Industrial Therapy *Organisation's Premises at* Newtownards.

The Prince of Wales afterwards opened the *Belfast Improved Hous*ing Scheme at Scrabo Manor.

His Royal Highness later visited *the headquarters of the Royal Ulster* Constabulary, Brooklyn.

The Prince of Wales this evening presented the *Northern Ireland Ex*port Awards at a Reception in *HMY Britannia.*

Subsequently His Royal Highness gave a dinner on board for representatives of companies investing in *Northern Ireland.*

KENSINGTON PALACE
June 25: The Princess Margaret, Countess of Snowdon this morning left to visit the Russian Federation.

Her Royal Highness will undertake engagements at St Petersburg in connection with the Annual Festival of the White Nights.

Mrs Jane Stevens and Major The *Lord* Napier and Ettrick are in attendance.

YORK HOUSE
ST JAMES'S PALACE
June 25: The Duke of Kent, Member, *this evening attended the Annual* Dinner of the Third Guards Club Committee, at the Hyde Park Hotel, *Knightsbridge, London SW1.*

Birthdays today

The Earl of St Andrews celebrates his 34th birthday today.

Mr Claudio Abbado, conductor, 63; Sir Campbell Adamson, former chairman, Abbey National, 74; Sir Alan Bailey, civil servant, 65; Professor Kenneth Barker, Vice-Chancellor, De Montfort University, 62; Mrs June Bridgeman, former deputy chair, Equal Opportunities Commission, 64; Mr L.A. Carpenter, former chairman, Reed International, 69; Professor Alexander Fenton, former research director, National Museums of Scotland, 67; Mr Willie Hamilton, former MP, 79; Rear-Admiral Sir David Haslam, 73; Lady Holland-Martin, former chairman, NSPCC, 82; Professor Ruth Kempson, linguist, 52; Mr Robert Maclennan, MP, 60; Sir Peter Miles, former Keeper of the Privy Purse, 72; Professor Sir Alan Peacock, economist, 74; Mr Peter Pike, MP, 59; Lord Rawlinson of Ewell, QC, 77; Professor Maurice Wilkes, computer scientist, 83; Mr Colin Wilson, author, 65; Mr David Winnick, MP, 63.

Exhibition

The Royal Academy of Engineering

Sir William Barlow, FEng, President of The Royal Academy of Engineering, presided at the 1996 Soiree and Exhibition on the theme "Technology Transfer in Action" held at Rutherford Appleton Laboratory, Chilton, Oxfordshire, last night. AEA Technology plc and the Council for the Central Laboratory of the Research Councils *were the joint hosts. Sir* William Barlow, FEng, Dr Brian Eyre, CBE, FEng, Deputy Chairman of AEA Technology plc, and Dr Paul Williams, CBE, Chairman and Chief Executive, CCLRC, welcomed Fellows and their guests. The exhibition was followed by a reception and dinner.

Lecture

Wellington Society

Mr Peter Gatenby, of PPP, delivered a lecture to the Wellington *Society yesterday at the Wellington* Hospital. Dr Arthur Levin, chairman of the society, presided.

ADRIAN BROOKS

Work makes its bow

THE Slovakian composer Vladimír Godár and the cellist Julian Lloyd Webber, above, discuss the world pre*miere in London tonight* of Mr Godár's work for cello and orchestra *Barcarolle*.

Mr Webber came to know Mr Godár's music while ap*pearing at the 1992 Prague* Spring Festival. "I was so im*pressed that I wrote asking if* I might hear some of his other works," he said. Among the pieces Godár sent to him was a sonata for cello and *piano. "It was clear here was* someone with a *real under*standing of the instrument.

"Given also that his sense of orchestral colour was clearly displayed in the oratorio, I felt that a work for cello and orchestra would be a very exciting prospect."

The concert tonight by the BT Scottish Ensemble at the *Hellenic Centre in Padding*ton Street includes the first performance of John Tavener's *Tears of the Angels*, with Clio Gould, the ensemble's *artistic director*, as the *violin soloist*.

Today's royal engagements

The Duke of Edinburgh will visit *the City Technology College*, Cooks Lane, Kingshurst, Birmingham, at 4.10; and, as Patron of the Outward Bound Trust, will attend a gala *dinner* and ball at the Motorcycle Museum, Coventry Road, Solihull, at 7.

The Princess Royal, as Patron of the *Townswomen's Guilds*, will attend a national council meeting at Cardiff International Arena, Bute Terrace, Cardiff, at *11.50*; and will open a new wing of HM Prison and Remand Centre, Knox Road, at 1.55.

The Duke of Gloucester *will visit* BJS Company (Electroplaters and Silversmiths) at 65 Bideford Avenue, Perivale, Greenford, Middlesex, *at 11.30.*

The Duchess of Gloucester, as Patron of the Royal Surgical Aid Society, will present the awards for outstanding *achievement in* architecture and design of buildings for elderly people with dementia, at Drapers' Hall at 6.30

The Duke of Kent, as President, will attend the reopening ceremony of the Royal United Services Institute for Defence Studies, *Whitehall, at noon: and as Presi*dent of the Football Association will attend the Euro 96 semi-final at Wembley Stadium at 7.

The Duchess of Kent, as patron, will attend the Cancer Relief Macmillan Fund annual meeting at the York Barbican Centre, at 1.40.

Meeting

Commonwealth Parliamentary *Association*

The Speaker presided at the annual meeting of the United Kingdom branch of the Commonwealth *Parliamentary Association* held yesterday in the House of Commons.

Funding cuts spoil chance to spot ancient sites from the air

By Norman Hammond, archaeology correspondent

THE present hot, dry weather is offering opportunities for archaeology that will probably be wasted. Cropmarks *that would have disclosed* unknown sites to aerial photography will go unrecorded because of a lack of funds.

Frances Griffith, honorary secretary of the Council for British Archaeology (CBA), said: "*It seems clear that there will be fewer aerial archaeolo*gists flying fewer hours than at any time since the 1970s.

"Some sites show as cropmarks only once in ten or twenty years: they will go unrecorded, and simply not form part of our knowledge of *Britain's* archaeology." This year's funding shortfall has two causes, Ms Griffith says in *British Archaeology*, the newsletter of the CBA.

The royal commissions *have experienced cuts in gov*ernment funding, so that *the* total allocated for regional aerial reconnaissance in England is only £5,000, down from £14,800 last year and £23,300 in 1994-95.

In addition, local authorities are *hard-pressed*, with new and smaller bodies in Wales and Scotland just finding their feet, and English counties having experienced *serious cuts.*

"The immediate problem is that there will be little money for aerial reconnaissance this year," Ms Griffith says. "Flying programmes cannot be turned on and off like a tap. *Aerial reconnaissance* remains the most cost-effective extensive survey medium that we have," she added.

The potential of air survey was revealed dramatically last year when a hitherto unnoticed burial structure *was found at Avebury*, Wiltshire (*The Times*, January 30, 1996).

Dating to 3,000 years ago, the circular ditches lay near the centre of the great stone circle, and were described by the National Trust as "tremendously important".

Receptions

National Liberal Club

The Speaker attended a reception at the National Liberal Club last night to mark the 20th anniversary of the election of women as full *members. The Bishop of Chich*ester, president, Mr Stephen Bonarjee, club chairman, Baroness Seear, Baroness Robson of Kiddington and the *Hon Mrs Ray* Michie, MP, received the guests.

Heath Mount School, Hertford

The Revd Harry Matthews, MA, Headmaster, received the guests and Sir Peter Tapsell, MP, *(Old* Boy), President of the School's 1996 Appeal Fund, was the host at a reception held at the House of *Commons last evening* for Old Boys and Staff of Heath Mount Preparatory School.

Denstone College

The Governors of Denstone College are pleased to announce that *Mr David Derbyshire*, MSc, BA, has been appointed Headmaster with effect from January 1, 1997. *Mr Derbyshire is currently a Housemaster and Head of Politics* at Cranleigh School. He will succeed Mr Hugh Carson, present *Headmaster at Denstone College*, who is to become Headmaster at Malvern College.

Institute of Marine Engineers

The following have been elected fellows of the Institute of Marine Engineers and are designated to use the letters FIMarE:

J.J.Burn, P.E.R. Ekehorn, Kai Heng Ho, W.J. McNeill, T. Mourad, R.J. Pearson, and Cdr R.E. Wormald, RN.

Legal appointment

Latest appointments include: *Judge David Wilcox*, 57, to sit in the Official Referees' Court with effect from June 24.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr K.J. August and Miss J.M. Hall

The engagement is *announced* between *Kean, eldest* son of Mr and Mrs David August, of Aix en Provence, France, and Joanna, daughter of Mr Charles *Hall*, of Corhampton, *Hampshire*, and *Mrs Barbara* Hall, of Winchester, Hampshire.

Mr A.W. Bathurst and Miss J.S.E. Brownlee

The engagement is announced between *Andrew, youngest* son of Mr Peter Bathurst and the late Mrs Bathurst, of Pirbright, Surrey, and Jane, daughter of the late Mr *William Brownlee and* of Mrs Brownlee, of Belfast, Co Down.

Mr J.E. Dewhurst and Miss A.J. Faulkner

The *engagement* is *announced* between Jamie, younger son of Mr Jeremy Dewhurst, of Bankfoot, Perthshire, and Mrs Angela Dewhurst, of Glencarse, *Perth*shire, and Alison, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs Anthony Faulkner, of Upton Grey, Hampshire.

Mr C.J. Else and Miss M.C. Wood-Mallock

The engagement is announced between Christopher, son of Mr and Mrs Michael Else, of Corscombe, Dorset, and Claire, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs Peter Wood-Mallock, of Altrincham, Cheshire.

Mr W.P. Hinckley and Miss K.J. Amphlett

The engagement is announced between William, youngest son of Mr and Mrs Roy Hinckley, of *Felbridge, Surrey, and Kate*, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs Philip Amphlett, of Uphampton, Ombersley, Worcestershire.

Mr S.M.R. Hockliffe and Mlle S. Borello

The engagement is announced between Sebastian, eldest son of Mr and Mrs Quentin Hockliffe, of Horsted Keynes, West Sussex, and Stéphanie, youngest daughter of M and Mme Pasquale Borello, of *Paris.*

Mr S.J. Kennard and Miss K.A. Roper

The engagement is announced between *Julian*, elder son of Mr and Mrs Nicholas Kennard, of Estancia, Marabu, Argentina, and Alice, eldest daughter of Mr and *Mrs Mark Roper, of Forde Abbey*, Dorset.

Mr C.R.E. Keville and Miss M.D.M. Morgan-Witts

The engagement is announced *between Charles, son of Mr and* Mrs John Keville, of Leigh, Surrey, and Michèle, daughter of Mr and Mrs Max Morgan-Witts, of Ken*sington, London.*

Mr J.P.O. Knowles and Miss N.R. Feder

The engagement is announced *between Jonathan, second son of* Mr and Mrs Martin Knowles, of Colchester, Essex, and Natasha, daughter of Mr and Mrs Henry Feder, of North York, Toronto.

Mr R.J.G. Mitchell *and Miss E.C. Parry*

The engagement is announced between Robert, son of Commander and Mrs Patrick *Mitchell*, of Chorleywood, *Hertfordshire, and Emma*, younger daughter of the late Mr David Parry and of Mrs Jill Parry, of Ardeley, Hertfordshire.

Mr C.J. Quinton and Miss V.L. Johnstone

The engagement is announced between John, only son of Mr and Mrs Peter *Quinton, of Mvurwi, Zimbabwe*, and Victoria, elder daughter of Mr Jeffray Johnstone and the late Mrs Jane Johnstone, and stepdaughter of *Mrs Penelope Johnstone*, of Great Pool Hall, Monmouthshire.

Dr B.P. Saunders *and Dr A.M. Boswell*

The engagement is announced between Brian, younger son of Mrs Iris Saunders and the late Mr Fred Saunders, of Whittlesey, Cambridgeshire, and Annie, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs Kenneth Boswell, of Aldeburgh, Suffolk.

Mr C.H. Speke and Miss C. Welsby

The engagement is announced *between Christopher*, son of Mr and Mrs Peter Speke, of "Rowlands", Ilminster, Somerset, and Caroline, only daughter of Mr and Mrs Rod Welsby, of Lechlade-on-Thames, Gloucestershire.

Mr T.J. Wilkinson and Miss B. Reeves

The engagement is announced between Timothy John, only son of Mr John Wilkinson and Mrs Mary Heath-Bullock, of Godalming, and Beverlie, youngest daughter of Mr Derek Reeves *and Mrs Jennifer Gordon*, of Bournemouth.

Marriage

Mr A.M.D. Penn and Miss F.J.O. Mlinaric

The *marriage* took place on Saturday, June 22, 1996, at St James', Milton Clevedon, between Mr Andrew Penn, second son of the late Mr Michael Penn and of *Mrs* Pamela Penn, of Greenwich, London, to Miss Frances Mlinaric, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs David Mlinaric, of Spargrove, Somerset. The Rev Richard Willcox officiated.

The bride, who was given in marriage by her father, was attended by Miss Jessie Mlinaric, Mrs Georgie Campbell, Milo Astaire, Aaron Brookhouse, *Blaise* Drummond, Esme Drummond, Freddie Howorth, Maisie Penn, Amber Pitkin and Ruby Reed. Mr *Toby Constantine* and *Lord* Edward Manners were best men.

A reception was held at the home of the bride and the honeymoon will be spent in Batcombe.

Anniversaries

BIRTHS: Philip Doddridge, non*conformist minister*, London, 1702; George Morland, painter, London, 1763; William Thomson, 1st Baron *Kelvin, physicist and inventor*, Belfast, 1824; George Edward Herbert, 5th Earl of Carnarvon, archaeologist, 1866; Pearl Buck, novelist, *Nobel laureate 1938*, Hillsborough, West Virginia, 1892.

DEATHS: Francisco Pizarro, conqueror of the Inca empire, murdered, Lima, Peru, 1541; Gilbert White, clergyman and naturalist, Selbourne, *Hampshire*, 1795; Joseph Montgolfier, pioneer of ballooning, Balaruc-les-Bains, 1810; Samuel Crompton, inventor *of the spinning mule*, Firwood, Lancashire, 1827; Ford Madox Ford, writer, Deauville, 1939; Karl Lansteiner, pathologist, New York, 1943.

King William IV succeeded to the throne, 1830.

The Victoria Cross was first awarded by Queen Victoria to 62 servicemen *at a ceremony* in Hyde Park, London, 1857.

The first Grand Prix took place at Le Mans, 1906.

King Edward VII opened the *Victoria and Albert Museum*, London, 1909.

Emily Dawson appointed the first female magistrate in Britain, 1913.

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With great power the apostles bore witness to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and all were held in high esteem.
Acts of the Apostles 4 : 33 (REB)

BIRTHS

BADAWI CROOK - On June 22nd at The Portland Hospital to Zeinab Badawi and David Crook, a daughter Sophia, a sister for Joseph.

BUTCHER - On 17th June, to Carly (née Hazlitt) and Andrew, a son and fishing friend, Angus William.

de LEEUW - *On 11th June*, to Deirdre (née Michie) and *Paul*, a lovely baby boy, Kyle, a brother for Craig.

DOWNES - On June 22nd at The Portland Hospital, to Kirsty and Andrew, a beautiful son, Jamie Andrew John.

ELPHICK - On June 20th at The Portland Hospital, to Nicola and *Clifford*, a beautiful daughter, Emily.

FLORES - *On June 21st* at The Portland Hospital to Valeria and Augusto a beautiful daughter Camila, a sister for Nicolas, and granddaughter for Cecilia Juan Manuel, Monica, Augusto.

HOLT - On June 21st, to Steve and Juliet, triplets Harry, Frederick and Ruby at Rosie Maternity Hospital.

HOULDSWORTH - *On 18th* June, to Joanna (née *Hockley*) and Simon, a son, George Ian (Geordie), a brother for Charlotte.

KNOX - On June 4th at The Portland Hospital, to Mimi and David, a *beautiful* daughter, Katie, a sister for *Anouska.*

LUBINSKY - On June 18th at The Portland Hospital, to Michelle (née Rayner) and Stephen, a darling son, a *brother for Joseph and* Deborah.

MURCEY - On June 20th at The Portland Hospital, to Nicola (née Walters) and Mark, a beautiful son, William Heywood.

PAICE - On 18th June 1996, to Jill (née Devenay) and Mark, the gift of a son, Luke Robert William, a brother for Robyn Georgina.

PICALEK - *On June 19th* at The Portland Hospital, to Conny and Michael, a lovely son, Kevin.

PRATT - On June 23rd at The Portland Hospital, to Clarissa (née Ridpath) and Simon, a boy, *Angus William*, a brother for Kitty and Tamara.

RODRIGUES - On 22nd June, to Julie (née Ayton) and Jonathan, an adorable daughter, Emily. Another granddaughter *for* Betty.

BIRTHS

SCHAEFER - On 20th June at The Portland Hospital our little lentil became Lisa Chiara, Olivia and Steven.

SHAW - On June 21st 1996, *to Beryl (née Ryan)* and Mike, a daughter, Cristina Natalie, 8lbs 14½oz.

STEBBINGS - On June 22nd at The Portland Hospital, to Juliet (née Parry) and Christopher, a son, Harry, a brother for Charlie.

STEVENSON - On June 22nd *at The Portland Hospital*, to Paul and Libby, a daughter, *Erica, a sister for Dylan.*

SVENSON - On June 22nd at The Portland Hospital, to Allyson and Scott, a healthy happy and very handsome son, Tristan Scott.

TONY - On June 15th at The Portland Hospital, to Nicola (née Murray) and David, a son, James William, a brother for Madeleine.

WILLOUGHBY - *On 14th* June, to Biddy (née *Hayward*) and Colin, a daughter, Georgia Violet.

DEATHS

ABEL SMITH - *At Stracathro* Hospital, Brechin, Angus, on Sunday 23rd June 1996, Lady Mary Elizabeth, widow of Vice-Admiral Sir Conolly Abel Smith G.C.V.O., C.B., mother of Rosemary and Michael, *grandmother* of Charles-Iain and Jessica and great-grandmother. *Funeral* on Friday June 28th at St Andrew's Episcopal Church, Brechin at 11.30 am. No flowers please. Donations to The Royal National Lifeboat Institution.

AKESTER - Joan Marguerite died *peacefully on June 21st* at The Princess Alice Hospice. *Much loved mother* of Shaan and Amanda, loving grandma to Tom and Eleanor. Funeral Service Kingston Crematorium Chapel *on Monday July 1st* 1.30 pm. Flowers c/o F.W. Paine, *29 Coombe Road*, Kingston-upon-Thames, KT2 7AY. tel: (0181) 546-4813.

BARNSLEY - Tania died 21st June peacefully at home with her children. Quiet cremation noon on 28th *June at Chichester* Crematorium. No flowers please but donations to Edward Barnsley Educational Trust gratefully received c/o Funeral Services (Petersfield) Ltd., 19 The Square, Petersfield, Hants, GU32 3HR. tel: (01730) 262711.

DEATHS

BENNETT - David on 23rd June after a long illness borne with fortitude. Beloved husband of *Beulah, dearly* loved father of John and *Pippa. Funeral at Burwash* Parish Church Wednesday *3rd July at 2 pm.* Family flowers only but donations if *desired to Sussex Branch*, Council for Protection of *Rural England c/o C.* Waterhouse & Sons, High Street, Burwash, Etchingham, E. Sussex.

BENNETT - Suddenly at home on 21st June 1996, Ronald Alistair Bennett C.B.E. Q.C. aged 73 years, beloved husband of Margret and beloved father of Ingibjorg, Vivien, Mark, Sigurdur, Magnus and the late Fleur. Funeral on Friday 28th June 1996 at Warriston *Crematorium Main Chapel* Edinburgh at 3 pm. No *flowers please.*

BRADSHAW - *On 24th June* at Weybridge, Mary Constance aged 91, beloved wife of the late Brigadier George Bradshaw and much loved mother and grandmother.

BREESE - James Henry on *Tuesday June 25th*, peacefully at The Norfolk and Norwich Hospital, aged 71 years. Dear husband of Dorothy, father of Richard and Tony, father-in-law of Yolanta and Rona, grandad *of Jessica and Joshua.* Funeral Service at City of *Norwich (Earlham)* Crematorium on Monday July 1st at 11 am followed by Thanksgiving Service at St Andrew's Church, Hingham, Norfolk at 2 pm. All friends are welcome at *either or both services.* Family flowers only, donations to be divided between St Andrew's Church, Hingham, The Guild of Health and Off The Record Counselling Services, *Norwich* sent, *c/o R.J.* Bartram and Son, Funeral Directors, Wymondham, Norfolk would be appreciated.

BRETT - Victor Stanley peacefully at R.U.H. Bath on June 23rd 1996, devoted and dearly loved husband *of* Madeline and *father* of Paul, grandpa to George and Edmund. Funeral Service Haycombe Crematorium on Friday June 28th at 12.30pm. Family flowers only please but donations if desired for Cancer Research *may be sent for the attention* of Dr. Gilby, R.U.H., Combe Park, Bath.

DEATHS

CHRISTOFF - Nancy Hope *(née Twist), widow of Boris* Alexander, died aged 86 on *20th June 1996. Funeral will* take place at St Mary *Magdalene*, Richmond, on Tuesday 2nd July at *11.15am.* Donations to Royal National Institute for the Deaf, 19-23 Featherstone Street, London EC1Y 8SL.

COOK - Margaret Helen Mary, widow of Bernard, *beloved mother of Felicity* and Angela, peacefully on *24th June in Holy Cross* Priory, Cross-in-Hand, East Sussex.

COX - Sir Gordon KBE, FRS, on June 23rd, aged 90. Formerly Secretary of the Agricultural Research Council. Beloved and loving husband of *Mary Rossleen* and of the late Lucie Grace, *father of Patricia and Keith*, grandfather and great-grandfather. Funeral at 2.30pm Friday June 28th at Golders Green Crematorium, Hoop Lane, London NW11. No flowers please but donations if desired to Friends of RFH/Project. The *Royal Free Hospital*, Pond Street, London NW3 2QG or to The Edenhall Marie Curie Centre, 11 Lyndhurst Gardens, London NW3 5NS.

FOUNTAIN - Margarete (Chica) née von Donop on June 21st tragically at home. *Much loved wife of Michael* and mother of Christopher. Service to be held on Friday 28th June at 12.30 pm. St Martin's Church, Church Street, Epsom, followed by a private family cremation at *Randalls Park Crematorium*, Randalls Road, Leatherhead. *Flowers to W.A. Truelove &* Son, 14/16 Church Road, Epsom.

GRAHAM - George *Edward* (Ted) on June 18th in Melbourne, Australia. Former senior partner of Ellis Wood, Solicitors, City of London. Beloved husband of Anita, loved and loving *father of Angela*, Joanna, Philippa and Emma. Loved and respected *by all their* families and his eight grandchildren.

DEATHS

HUMPHRIES - Sally Claire. *Most dearly loved daughter* of Tony and Anne and sister *of Christopher*. Sally grew up in Coulsdon, Surrey and worked in China, Pakistan, Manchester-England and in Nicaragua. She died on June 20th as the result of a tragic accident whilst working in San Sebastian-Spain where cremation took place on June 22nd. Arrangements for her friends to meet in London to celebrate Sally's life will be circulated as soon as *possible. Please send* donations in her memory to:- ICD, Unit 3, Canonbury Yard, 190a New North Road, *London N1 7BJ. For att. Mr* L Rae. Atlantic Coast Project *or to:- VSO*, Freepost, London SW15 2YY.

HUNTER - Anthony Curling (Tony) aged 70 years, on 23rd June 1996 at Winchester Hospital. Devoted and greatly loved husband of Jane, adored father of Corinne and Lisa *and father-in-law of David.* Service of Thanksgiving at St Andrew's Church, Nether Wallop, Hants, at 2.30 pm on Friday 28th June. Family flowers only but donations if wished to British Heart Foundation.

KITCHIN - Captain George Armand de Gavardie C.B.E. Royal Navy, died June 23rd aged 75. Beloved husband of Jean MacFarlane (née Wolfenden) and father of Hugh, David *and* Mark. Requiem Mass at S.S. Peter and Paul, King Somborne, Hants on Monday July 1st at 2.30 pm. Family flowers only, donations to R.N.L.I. c/o Jno. Steel & Son, Chesil House, Winchester, (01962) 844044.

LACK - Dr. Christofer Lack F.R.C. Psych., on June 23rd, dear husband of Hilary, father of Vivien and Julian, grandfather of Christopher, Alexander, Amanda, Nicholas, John and Michael and brother of *Katreen*, after a long illness died peacefully at home. Funeral Service at Christchurch, Esher at 10.30am Monday July 1st, followed by *cremation at* Randalls Park Crematorium, Leatherhead. Strictly *family* flowers only. Donations if *desired to* Marie Curie Cancer Care, 29 Belgrave Square, SW1X 8QG.

LEE - Adrian Elton Pincke of Woolley Firs on June 24th. Funeral private. No letters please. In appreciation of their care, donations may be sent, if wished, to the Ex-Services Mental Welfare Society, Wimbledon SW19 1RL for Kingswood Grange.

DEATHS

LESTER-CRIBB - Ruby, at *home in Edinburgh on June* 22nd 1996. Ruby (aged 99 years). Donations if so desired may be sent to the Royal National Lifeboat Institution, Bellevue House, Hopetoun Street, Edinburgh EH7.

McNAIR SCOTT - The Hon. Mary Cecilia on June 24th peacefully at home in her 91st year. Beloved wife of the late Ronald Guthrie *and* dearly loved mother, grandmother *and* great-grandmother. Funeral at St Mary's Church, Herriard, Basingstoke at 12 o'clock Saturday 29th June.

METCALF - On *June* 22nd, the Feast of St John Fisher and St Thomas More, at Guy's Hospital, Thomas John Tertius Metcalf, brother of Moira and Melissa. Requiem Mass at Brompton Oratory 11 am Friday 28th June followed by a *reception at St Wilfrid's* Hall. Interment strictly *private. No flowers* by request but donations to either the Worshipful Company of Wheelwrights Charitable Trust Fund, 11, Bridge Road, East Molesey, Surrey KT8 9EU or to the Special Trustees *of Guy's* Hospital Account No. *CD001, Guy's Hospital*, St Thomas Street, London Bridge, SE1 9RT.

MILLN - Cecil Elizabeth (Betty) suddenly *but* peacefully at home on 22nd *June 1996.*

O'KEEFFE - On Saturday 22nd June, 1996 suddenly, Dr. Thomas of Odstock, Salisbury. Much *loved* husband of Yvette and father of *Terence*. Requiem *Mass* on Wednesday 3rd July, *1996* at 11 am at St Osmund's Church, Exeter Street, Salisbury. Donations for Amnesty International c/o I.N. Newman Ltd., Funeral Directors, *Griffin* House, 55 Winchester Street, Salisbury, *Wilts.*

PRATT - On 25th June, peacefully in his sleep after a long and courageously borne illness. John Michael Brian (Jimmie), beloved husband of Doreen Maud (*Puddy*), stepfather of Amanda and *long time Headmaster of* Edge Grove. Cremation private. A service in his memory will be held in Aldenham Church at 2.30pm on Monday 8th July. No flowers, but donations may be made to the JMBP Memorial Fund.

DEATHS

RICHARDS - On June 24th peacefully in Malmesbury, Marjorie, daughter of the late Colonel The Rt. Hon. Sir Leslie and Lady Wilson, loved mother of Ginnie and Sally, mother-in-law of David and much loved granny of Robert, Tor and Emiliano. Cremation private. *A Thanksgiving Service will* take place on Wednesday 17th July 2.30 pm at Great Somerford Parish Church. No flowers. Donations will be divided between The Injured Jockeys Fund and Malmesbury Hospital League of Friends c/o F.W. Jones and Son, 30 Market Place, Chippenham SN15 3HP. Tel: (01249) 652625.

ROSENTHAL - (H.J.) Jack died peacefully on June 24th 1996 at 5.10 pm at Mayday Hospital, Croydon, finally succumbing to lymphoma. *Deeply missed by all who* knew him. Leaves his wife, *sister, children and three* grandchildren Jemma, Isabella and Kerry. Funeral at 3.30 pm on Thursday 27th June at Randalls Park, Leatherhead.

SOLLY - Helen Barbara, *peacefully on June 22nd* aged 88. Much loved wife of the late *Rex Solly, mother of* George, John and David, and grandmother of Thomas, Robert, Christopher, Richard, Isabelle and Benedict. Funeral Service at All Saints' Church, Langton *Long, Blandford on Friday* June 28th at 3 pm. Family flowers only. *Donations if* desired, to the Leonard Cheshire Foundation c/o Colin Close, 1B Salisbury Street, Blandford, Dorset DT11 7AU. (01258) 453153.

SPENCER SMITH - Olive, *peacefully whilst asleep*, on June 20th 1996 aged 78. *Widow of the late Thomas* Hallam, and father of Didi and Peter, who together with her six grand-children and many friends will greatly miss her. Memorial service at All Saints, Middleton Cheney at *2.30 pm on Friday* 28th June. Family flowers only. *Donations in memory* of Olive to Middleton Cheney PCC - Church Fabric Fund.

TANSLEY - On 23rd June, *Iris Evelyn, aged 86, widow* of Sir Eric Tansley, much loved mother of Jane and John, grandmother of Mark, Guy and Lucinda and great-grandmother. Private family funeral.

DEATHS

THOMSON - Anthony Duncan (Tommy) aged 75 years of Minchinhampton, Glos., peacefully on 24th June at the Gloucestershire Royal Hospital. A dearly loved husband, father and grandfather. Funeral Service at Holy Trinity Church, Minchinhampton, on *Tuesday 2nd July at 2.30 pm* followed by cremation. Family *flowers only*, donations in lieu may be sent for either *Horsfall House*, The League of Friends of Gloucestershire Royal Hospital or the R.N.L.I. c/o Philip Ford & Son, Funeral Directors, Dirleton House, Cainscross Road, Stroud, Glos. GL5 4ES.

WRIGHT - On June 22nd, *peacefully at Bywell Grange* Retirement Home, Worthing, Terence, *formerly of West* Chiltington, dearly loved husband of the late Molly, loving father of John, much loved grandfather of Kristin and James. Memorial Service at 3 pm on Tuesday, 9th July 1996 at St Marys Parish Church, West Chiltington, preceded by a family committal at *Worthing Crematorium*. All enquiries to H.D. Tribe Ltd., 130 Broadwater Road, Worthing, West Sussex, tel: (01903) 234516.

SILVER ANNIVERSARIES

WILSON - David and Pam of Solihull. 25th Wedding Anniversary. We intend to celebrate all year!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

£1,000 *REWARD for return of* Psion 3A Organiser, left on *Gatwick Express, midday on* Wednesday 12th June. Tel: 0171 800 2259.

TALKING about advanced communication how's *this? On* behalf of BT I trust everybody had a magical evening and a special thanks to Carol-Ann Balsh for choosing the nine of clubs, regards Howard

WURTTEMBERG'S sorry for delay, matter concluded, will be travelling to Austria Monday.

BIRTHDAYS

ABS Happy birthday!! hope you have a brilliant day xxx

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TICKETS FOR SALE
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هكذا من الأصل

OBITUARIES

PASQUALINO DE SANTIS

Pasqualino De Santis, Italian cinematographer, died of a heart attack while filming in Ukraine on June 23 aged 69. He was born in Fondi, in the Latina province of Italy, in 1927.

The orchard walls are high and hard to climb/And the place death considering who thou art: Olivia Hussey and Leonard Whiting in Zeffirelli's *Romeo and Juliet*, 1968

ALTHOUGH the success (and enduring popularity) of the 1968 film of *Romeo and Juliet* is inseparable from Franco Zeffirelli's instinctive feel for Shakespeare in his direction of its young protagonists Leonard Whiting and Olivia Hussey, it also owed much to its director of photography, Pasqualino De Santis. Zeffirelli's was the genius in discerning that, after a number of film versions of Shakespeare's play which had featured seasoned actors, what was required was teenaged performers who could convey the uncontrollable, youthful passions which are the soul of the work. De Santis's lens was the medium through which the beauty — as well as the frequently unruly spirit — of renaissance Italy was evoked.

It was the Umbrian town of Gubbio which, in the film, did duty for Verona, in which of course the story is set. De Santis's camera vividly transmitted the blistering heat of afternoons in the piazza, when all but determined troublemakers are safely ensconced in *siesta*. He evoked the mellow light of evening, reflected from cooling ochre stucco façades. And his ability to handle the absurdity of young love in close-up, without allowing it to seem merely risible, was masterly.

His performance on the film won him an Oscar for cinematography, making him the first foreigner to win an Academy Award in that particular category. In subsequent films, which included *The Assassination of Trotsky*, *Lucky Luciano*, *Death in Venice* and *Christ Stopped at Eboli*, De Santis confirmed his mastery of his medium. He became the favourite director of cinematography for many of Italy's finest film-makers, including Luchino Visconti, Roberto Rosellino and Francesco Rosi. "To create, to invent, to go beyond the intentions of the director: this is what it means to photograph film," he once said.

Pasqualino De Santis was born in the small town of Fondi halfway between Rome and Naples; he was ten years younger than his brother Giuseppe, the film-maker with whom he made his debut in 1950 with *There is No Peace Among the Olives*. De Santis had attended the Experimental Film-Making Centre in Rome between 1945 and 1948 and thereafter became a pupil and assistant of Gianni Di Venanzo, the photographic director who died in 1966 after working for many years with Federico Fellini and the neo-realist director Michelangelo Antonioni. As a camera operator under Di Venanzo, De Santis refined his technique on films such as *Salvatore Giuliano*, *8½* and *Juliet of the Spirits*. Indeed it was from Di Venanzo that he learnt the art of creating mood through the lens.

De Santis helped Rosi to finish his 1965 film *The Moment of Truth* after Di Venanzo was taken seriously ill during its shooting. The following year Di Venanzo was asked by the American director Joseph Mankiewicz to direct the photography of the film *The Honeypot*. Di Venanzo again fell ill during the filming, this time fatally, depriving Italian cinema of one of its great talents; De Santis completed the photographic direction of that film as well.

By then his reputation was becoming well established and he went on to make a series of films with Rosi including *The Matteo Case* in 1972, *Lucky Luciano* in 1973 and *Excellent Corpses* in 1976. He also worked extensively with Visconti, notably in the filming of *Death In Venice* in 1971 and of *The Innocent* in 1976.

Visconti would often accuse De Santis light-heartedly of being a "perfectionist maniac" and De Santis recalled that "when we finished *Death in Venice* Luchino told me the film was too perfect and that I should have tried to create a wrinkle here or there".

Visconti actually had a point. The De Santis love affair with the camera which had made *Romeo and Juliet* such a feast for the eye and so ravishing to the emotions had, by *Death in Venice*, become a trifle cloying. Thomas Mann's limpid (and perfectly filmable) novella ended up being stifled under the weight of lingering camera shots and a quite needlessly complicated plot. The recent *A Month by the Lake* featuring Vanessa Redgrave was open to the same objection, substituting a somewhat saccharine glow for a realistic evocation of the Italian locations in which it was set. In retrospect (though it had its critics — some severe — at the time) it can be seen that his *Romeo and Juliet* triumphantly avoided the pitfall which awaits every Italian cameraman who has a deep love for his country's scenery — namely that he will end up drowning in it.

Among other foreign directors who often used De Santis was Robert Bresson, for whom he directed the photograhy of *Le Diable Probablement*. De Santis was always to characterise his relationship with Visconti as that between maestro and pupil; with Rosi as fraternal and with Bresson as "simply mysterious". Bresson was, above all the film-makers he ever met, a "true poet" in De Santis's opinion.

De Santis also did a fair amount of hack work for television advertising, work he did not greatly care for from the creative point of view, but which helped to pay the bills. He died of a heart attack in Ukraine, while concluding the shooting of Rosi's new film *La Tregua* (The Truce) based on the novel by Primo Levi.

KENNETH RANKIN

Kenneth Rankin, forest economist and chartered accountant, died on May 26 aged 86. He was born on July 2, 1909.

FEW people have had a more dramatic influence on the British landscape and rural employment than Kenneth Rankin. Almost uniquely he saw the possibilities which forestry presented to investors in the early 1950s. As a result of this single-mindedness and prodigious enthusiasm, over 400,000 acres of forest were planted in Britain and elsewhere.

Kenneth Naismith Rankin was a Scotsman, but born in Lisbon into a prosperous cork-growing family. Forestry, therefore, was in his blood, but did not feature strongly in his early career. Educated at Clifton, he qualified as a chartered accountant in 1932 with Thomson McLintock and in 1939 enlisted in the Honourable Artillery Company, transferring to the 51st Heavy Anti-Aircraft Regiment, Royal Artillery, as a subaltern in 1940.

His experience at the first siege of Tobruk in 1941 in which a combined British, Australian, New Zealand and South African force withstood the Afrika Korps for five months, made a great impression on him and was the subject of his two books: *Top Hats in Tobruk* and *Lest We Forget*. In particular, the way in which all the guns of his battery remained in action despite a total of 1,000 air raids, including attacks by Stuka dive-bombers and the comradeship of the soldiers, deepened his religious convictions and innate optimism about human nature. From this time, too, dated his lasting affection for Australia, New Zealand and South Africa.

Back in London, a job in accountancy did not contain Rankin's ebullient, inquiring spirit. He advised his clients that, by establishing forests that were badly needed by the national economy, it was possible to avoid paying income tax, capital gains tax or estate duty. Not surprisingly, his advice galvanised an industry which had traditionally been in the financial doldrums.

Rankin's key insight was that a buoyant investment market required an organised forestry sector to meet its needs. With this in mind, he set up a number of forestry management companies which coalesced to form the Economic Forestry Group, the flagship of private forestry from the 1960s to the 1980s.

Fuelled by an apparently limitless source of capital via the Evans Rankin office in London, the Economic Forestry Group was, at its peak, planting 30,000 acres a year, culminating most remarkably in the 36,000-acre Eskdalemuir complex in the Scottish Lowlands, the largest privately owned forest in Europe. This heady period was checked only in 1988, when the Chancellor of the Exchequer, Nigel Lawson, alarmed at indiscriminate planning in environmentally sensitive areas, took forestry out of the tax system altogether.

Ironically, Rankin was a victim of his own success. He was never a committee man and the inevitable bureaucracy of a large and successful company was not to his taste. In 1976 he retired from the board, only to set up another company, Forest Investment Management.

With his maverick charm and seemingly inexhaustible energy, Rankin was a natural salesman. The key to his success lay, however, in his total belief in what he was selling and in his broad vision of the role of forestry and its industries in supplying British timber needs and bringing employment to rural areas.

In this his objectives were similar to those of the Forestry Commission at that time, founded as it was in the wake of the devastation to home-grown timber stocks during the First World War and at a time of mass rural unemployment.

Rankin's enthusiasm for initiating a British private conifer industry was inspired, he said, by the view from a mountaintop in Eastern Transvaal in 1960. To the west there was "an arid desert as far as the eye could see with almost no sign of life at all"; to the east "a quite beautiful scene with the vivid green of the plantations, wildlife, running river, winding colourful roads, sawmill, buildings and houses, supporting railway, and overall a hive of activity. Never again, I felt, should there be any criticism of the conifer."

Rankin always felt particulary at home with foresters and was proud to receive the Society of Forestry gold medal and to be an honorary fellow of the Institute of Chartered Foresters, the first non-professional forester to be so honoured.

In his youth, Rankin was a keen sportsman and enjoyed recounting how the feat of coming second in a race at Clifton against Jerry Corns, later an Olympic silver medallist, landed him in the sick bay for a week. In 1960, visiting South Africa as a member of the Romany Cricket Club, he received the dubious distinction of being hailed as "England's oldest living wicket keeper" in the *Rand Daily News*.

Kenneth Rankin married his wife Nancy in 1940, on the weekend of the Dunkirk evacuation. He is survived by her and by a son and three daughters.

REAR-ADMIRAL PHILIP BURNETT

Rear-Admiral Philip Burnett, CB, DSO, DSC and Bar, wartime anti-submarine expert, died on June 10 aged 87. He was born on September 10, 1908.

THE contribution Philip Burnett made towards the defeat of the German submarine threat in the Battle of the Atlantic included a hand in the sinking of four U-boats, as well as two years ashore as the co-ordinator of all the Royal Navy's anti-submarine training.

His time under fire could well be said to have started in January 1939 when he was designated as the second-in-command of the destroyer *HMS Kelly*, then under construction at the Hawthorne Leslie yard on the Tyne. Whatever revisionists may now say about its captain, Lord Louis Mountbatten, there is no argument about the professional zeal, the driving energy and the attention to detail exhibited by this charismatic figure. Before Mountbatten's arrival on board, *Kelly* had already received the benefit of his several inventions in equipment and design, and Burnett had been deluged with letters of advice about what courses to attend and what orders to write.

Nothing was too trivial to engage Mountbatten's attention, and when *Kelly* got to sea it was Burnett's role to implement his philosophy of the "happy and efficient ship" — adopted word-for-word by Noël Coward in his celebrated captain's introductory speech to his destroyer crew in the wartime film *In Which We Serve*.

At the outbreak of war, *Kelly* was soon in action. As leader of the 5th Destroyer Flotilla, Mountbatten was in charge of seven similar destroyers and Burnett was also his flotilla anti-submarine expert. *Kelly* was operated with considerable dash and flair — some say incautiously — and suffered a certain amount of damage from weather, mines and collision. But she and others of her group distinguished themselves by evacuating the soldiers of "Mauriceforce", including French Chasseurs Alpins, from the Norwegian port of Namsos in late April 1940 under heavy air attack from the Luftwaffe. This earned the undying gratitude of the force commander, the legendary eye-patched warrior, Major-General Adrian Carton de Wiart, VC.

On the night of May 10, *Kelly* was engaged with German torpedo-boats in the North Sea when she was hit amidships by a torpedo, and 27 of her crew were killed. Saved by thorough training in damage control, she was towed to Newcastle in a semi-submerged condition by the destroyer *Bulldog*. This was a feat that took more than 90 hours under repeated air attacks.

Burnett was twice mentioned in dispatches during this period and his promotion to commander in January 1941 clearly expressed Mountbatten's approval. Leaving the *Kelly* in February, he was appointed to the Navy's anti-submarine school *HMS Osprey* as the chief training staff officer.

In May 1943, at the height of the Atlantic battle, he was appointed senior officer of the Canadian Escort Group C2 in the destroyer *Gatineau*. The Royal Canadian Navy's substantial contribution to this campaign had required a sudden expansion in its personnel, and the consequent dilution of expertise had led to several such examples of international co-operation.

In September 1943 *Gatineau*'s group, supporting a westbound convoy from Liverpool, became involved with another convoy and a British escort group in a fierce five-day running battle with 19 U-boats. The wolf-pack tactics of Doenitz's submarines were now being countered by increasing numbers of aircraft, escorts and by improved technology. Three U-boats were sunk and three damaged for the loss of six merchantmen. But this was the first use by the Germans of the T5 acoustic homing torpedo, which sank three escorts and damaged another. In fact, countermeasures against this torpedo were soon in place, but the U-boat captains' exaggerated claims from this battle misled Doenitz for some months. Burnett was awarded his first DSC for this action.

Later, when in the Canadian escort *St Catherine's*, Burnett led his group in the sinking of *U-744* which, although using acoustic torpedoes, was eventually destroyed after a 30-hour search. For this Burnett was awarded a Bar to his DSC.

In command of the destroyer *Helmsdale* he shared the sinking of *U-743* with another frigate. In February 1945, when patrolling north of the Shetland Islands, Burnett's 10th Escort Group sank three U-boats in two weeks, earning him the DSO. His war service ended in the Admiralty as Assistant Director of the Anti-U-boat Division.

Philip Whitworth Burnett joined the Royal Navy at Dartmouth in 1922 and on graduation was appointed to the battleship *Royal Oak* in the Mediterranean. Transferring to the cruiser *Emerald* on the China station, he took part in the March 1927 "Nanking Incident", one of the many confused military brushes of that era between the various Chinese factions and European, American and Japanese interests. In this case, Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek's forces had entered Nanking and, in the excitement, had looted the foreign consulates. A bombardment by *Emerald* and an American destroyer restored the situation.

Thereafter Burnett followed a conventional progression of courses and promotions, enjoying the illusory sunlit prewar world of the Mediterranean and Far East stations in which the tilting of the strategic balance away from democratic Europe towards totalitarian Italy and Germany and imperial Japan was — almost fatally for the civilised world — ignored.

Burnett specialised in anti-submarine warfare and in 1934 he became an instructor. When in the destroyer *Decoy*, he took part in the ineffective Allied measures to counter Mussolini's attack on Abyssinia in 1935. More than anything, these convinced the dictator that the British no longer needed to be regarded as a threat to territorial ambitions in the Mediterranean: "These men are not made of the same stuff as Francis Drake and the other magnificent adventurers who created the Empire," he noted.

Shortly after the war Burnett was promoted captain and commanded the cruisers *Euryalus* and *Jamaica*. He also had enjoyable tours in command of the naval air station and subsequently the dockyard in Singapore. Two years in the United States on the staff of the Nato Supreme Commander Atlantic were followed by promotion to rear-admiral and appointment as Chief of Staff to the C-in-C at Portsmouth. Burnett retired in 1958. He had been appointed CB in 1957.

Philip Burnett is survived by his wife Molly, whom he married in 1947, and by their son and two daughters.

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ON THIS DAY

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Although Napoleon made the youngest of his brothers King of Westphalia, Jerome was not cast in the same mould as the Emperor. He lived, however, to see one of his nephews become Napoleon III.

JEROME BONAPARTE

With Jerome Bonaparte passes away another of the names that connect the present generation with the great events and changes of the first quarter of the century. Of the 13 children of Carlo Bonaparte, the Corsican advocate, eight lived to rise with the "star" of Napoleon. Of these children five were sons, and of the five sons Jerome was the youngest.

The navy was selected for the career of the cadet of the house, and in the French marine Jerome served through the years of the Consulate. It was in 1803, while serving on the North American station that Jerome, then only 19, met at Baltimore the daughter of an American merchant, became enamoured of the lady, and, without asking the permission of the head of the family, was married to Elizabeth Patterson. Napoleon was proclaimed Emperor in 1804, and at the date of his brother's marriage, was calculating alliances with the royal families of Europe as part of his policy. He was incensed on hearing of his brother's action.

Napoleon possessed in a high degree the faculty of judging the capacity and fitness of individuals for special service. He disliked unsuccessful men. Yet at the commencement of one of his boldest enterprises Napoleon intrusted to his brother Jerome, who was only nominally a soldier, a military command that would have required a Soult or a Massena to have borne with credit. It was at the beginning of the Russian campaign of 1812 that Jerome, then King of Westphalia, was placed at the head of 70,000 German troops in Poland. He proved his unfitness for the post by allowing himself to be surprised at Smolensko, and the Emperor's plans were considerably deranged by the error. Jerome was immediately relieved of his command.

Some years earlier after the great and crucial Battle of Austerlitz when Napoleon's career was at his zenith the kingdom of Westphalia was constructed and given to Jerome, who had consented to the repudiation of his plebeian wife and married Princess Catherina Frederica of Wurtemberg. The Westphalian kingdom went down with the wreck of Empire and the beginning and end of Jerome's reign are almost the only events that marked its existence.

The King of Westphalia fled to Switzerland, and finally settled at Trieste. When Napoleon landed from Elba Jerome returned to France, and took part in the last struggle. He held a command in the campaign of 1815, and was present at Waterloo. Then followed the long period of reverse, which was shared by the whole family; all of the name of Bonaparte were exiled from France. With exile and dispersion came obscurity, that had almost deepened into oblivion when history again took up the fortunes of the Napoleons.

The King of Westphalia was a young man, little more than 30, at the dissolution of the Empire; he was verging towards 70 when he returned to France to resume something of his past dignity. The life of Jerome Bonaparte closed in the enjoyment of wealth and honours; but, in truth, his sun went down at noon; the few years of prosperity at the close of his career were but a faint reflex of the splendour and promise in which it began.

Millionaires apply now to the ITC

Don't you love lists? Try this. Bob Phillis, Liz Forgan, John Tusa, Sir Norman Fowler, Sir Michael Checkland. They are all names bruited for chairman of the Independent Television Commission. The top post at the ITC falls vacant at the end of this year.

Until a year ago, the incumbent chairman, the long-serving and admired Sir George Russell, might have been expected to move over to the BBC when Marmaduke Hussey stepped down aged 73 this spring. But when in April 1995 Sir George, at 60 as covered with non-executive chairmanships as some people are with tattoos, added yet another to his collection — the Camelot Group (operators of the National Lottery) — he effectively took himself out of the running. Another millionaire, Sir Christopher Bland, himself the former deputy chairman of the Independent Broadcasting Authority, the ITC's forerunner, took the BBC crown instead.

BRENDA MADDOX

Among candidates for the ITC chairmanship, the BBC's deputy director-general Mr Phillis heads the list. Ostensibly second in command to John Birt, Mr Phillis is the highest-ranking among those top BBC executives who were not told of the massive impending reorganisation until just before it was announced this month.

To outsiders, the amiable Mr Phillis shines as the ideal leader for what is still, in many British hearts, "the other side". He knows ITV and its discontents from the inside out. Before being plucked for the BBC, he had been managing director of the highly successful Carlton Television, although much in the shadow of his boss, Carlton's founder Michael Green, and then went on to Independent Television News.

At ITN Mr Phillis would have learnt about one of the ITC's hardest tasks: to resist the plea of the regional television companies to move *News at Ten* to a less intrusive spot in the evening schedules. Just last week, at the Royal Television Society, Bruce Gyngell, of Yorkshire-Tyne Tees, raised the cry once more. He called the 30-minute news programme a "strangulating corset". But the ITC is charged by Parliament with keeping an element of public service. And moving the news to 6.30pm or 11pm, marginalising it in the American manner, is not on.

But speculation is probably irrelevant. The ITC job is not big enough for Mr Phillis, aged 50. Nor, at £63,000 a year, is the pay. His BBC salary is about three times what the ITC chairman earns. Sir George has not had to think of such things. As chairman of Marley Tiles since 1989, he ranks among the highest-paid executives in Britain.

Heading the ITC is a job for someone who is above the battle. Hence, some of the other rumoured names: John Tusa, former head of the BBC World Service, now chief executive of the Barbican; Sir Michael Checkland, former BBC Director-General; and possibly Liz Forgan, the recently departed BBC Radio managing director.

The appointment, in the gift of the Government, has been filled by a woman once before. Lady Plowden was chairman of the IBA from 1975 to 1980, and is still remembered for the brisk "Come along, Brian" with which she summoned her chief executive, Sir Brian Young. No government has yet seen fit to grace the BBC with a woman on top.

The ITC chairmanship is no sinecure. The commission must take commercial decisions which are highly controversial and subject to judicial review. Sir George has faced two court challenges. TSW took the ITC to court after losing its ITV franchise to Westcountry Television in 1992. And, more recently, the losers in the Channel 5 race fought the decision in court. To the credit of Sir George and his chief executive David Glencross, the ITC's judgments were upheld in both cases.

So, now that Channels 3, 4 and 5 are set on course, there are two main tasks left at ITC. One is too easy; the other too hard. The easy one is regulating programmes for sex, violence and bad language. The commission handles this well when it does general performance reviews, but it is in danger of bending over backwards to deal with pernickety complaints from very small numbers of viewers. Its monthly complaints bulletin is unnecessary.

The hard, even impossible, duty ahead concerns terrestrial digital television (DTT). Bruce Gyngell was right to say that this has no future. Satellite television will provide myriad new digital channels well before the more limited terrestrial variety gets going.

But the ITC has to go through the motions of awarding digital terrestrial franchises because Parliament has decreed it. The commission's 135-page draft, *Invitation to Apply*, suggests rules that are inappropriately specific and complex for an unknown new business. The new ITC chairman's delicate task, therefore, will be to lead the commission in choosing some digital applicants over others. Yet at the same time he or she must find a way to explain to politicians that they went out of their depth in the digital clauses of the new Broadcasting Bill. The truth is that neither the experience nor the expertise exists for the ITC to make any reasoned judgment.

THE LISTENER

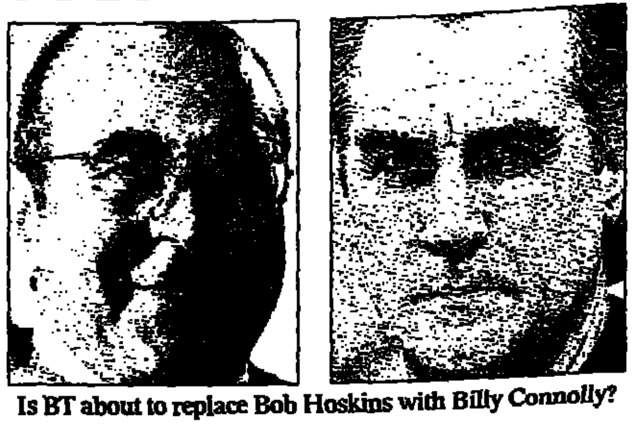
THE NEWS BEHIND THE HEADLINES

It's not so good for you, Bob

BT is expected to drop its television frontman, Bob Hoskins, from its advertisements — at least temporarily — because viewers outside the South East are becoming cheesed off with his cheeky chappy London accent.

To redress the regional balance, Abbott Mead Vickers, the company's advertising agency, is said to be considering running a campaign featuring Billy Connolly, the actor and comedian best known for his coarse humour and his broad Scots.

It's good to talk, but not, it seems, in a cockney accent.



Is BT about to replace Bob Hoskins with Billy Connolly?

Synchro scribbling

THIS year's spectacular summer of sport is clearly putting strains on the nation's overworked sports journalists. With so many column inches to be filled, editors are having to cast their nets far and wide to find competent writers.

None was more stretched than John Lovesey, the editor of *The Sunday Times* alphabetical pullout supplement, "1,000 Makers of Sports", who appeared to be running short of contributors by the time he reached the letter "M".

Fortunately, Lovesey had a brainwave. Who better to write the supplement's glowing tribute to the Channel swimmer Kevin Murphy than Murphy himself?

He is, after all, a journalist with Independent Radio News. It was entirely fitting, then, that Murphy, who was the first Briton to swim the Channel both ways, should open his entry with the words "In 1970 a respected journalist wrote of Kevin Murphy: 'There is about him a terrible resolve'."

And who might this "respected journalist be"? Why, John Lovesey, of course!

Queen's new title

ATTEMPTS by American broadcasters to woo Christiane Amanpour, undisputed Queen of the Sarajevo media corps, away from CNN have failed. Well, almost failed. After months of offer and counter-offer, during which seven-figure sums were bandied about, Amanpour, who is considered one of the toughest cookies on the war scene, has landed herself a dream deal that must make her one of the hottest properties on the international news circuit.

She will continue working with CNN, but with the fancy title of "chief international correspondent". In addition, her contract will enable her to contribute at least five pieces a year to CBS's much respected *60 Minutes*, the grandaddy of all US news magazine programmes.

While it may be pushing it a bit for Britain to claim credit for Amanpour's success, she was born in London and did get one of her first breaks on the BBC's *The World Tonight*.

IN DEATH as in life, Andreas Papandreou, the former Greek Prime Minister, maintained his ability to confound the press. On Sunday, the day he died, The Observer *was confidently assuring its readers that the veteran socialist "is still a force to be reckoned with".*

Pet project

EVER bent on their efforts to distinguish their products from their rivals', the marketing people at Pedigree, the petfood company, have taken to sending birthday greetings to their customers' dogs and cats. Lucky hounds and pussies who eat Sheba and Caesar from the Pedigree range will receive, on their special day — if their owner has played ball — a card from the company featuring a picture of a dog or a cat.

Michael Jenkins, Pedigree's PR manager, sheepishly explains that the cards are designed to give a friendly touch to the company's direct-marketing plan.

He says: "We find that it is very beneficial to have an interactive relationship with our customers. We can communicate about our products and build a one-to-one relationship with them."

Campaign to rehabilitate beef begins

The beef industry fights back

ADVERTISING

THE BEEF industry is bravely putting its head above the parapet this week and mounting its first advertising campaign since the BSE scare gripped the nation three months ago. Starting with a toe-in-the-water press campaign by BMP DDB tomorrow, it will develop into a bolder national TV blitz next week followed by posters.

Exhaustive research has shown that most consumer worries focus on mince, so the posters and press work, across all national newspapers, is specifically tailored to address this.

The TV campaign consists of a 50-second ad which was initially scheduled for March but had to be put back because the scare over the link between BSE and British beef broke just two days before the ad was due to go out.

ST LUKE'S, the groovy agency which has introduced West Coast advertising practices here in the form of virtual offices and hot-desking (otherwise known as working from home), is now pioneering "method advertising" — an approach to pitching for business and creating ads which involves total immersion in the brand.

The agency already tested this when it competed, successfully, for Ikea in March by sending staff to work in the store for a few days; now it is fighting for the £6 million Parkworld account.

Preparations have involved away days at Butlins in Bognor and stays at Haven Holiday Centres where St Luke's acolytes have been spotted donning giant Elvis wigs, playing bingo and entering excruciating karaoke competitions. "We go along and get really involved in what the client does and what the customer is like. That makes the advertising much truer to the brand," says one enthusiast. Whether Parkworld will be impressed remains to be seen.

BELINDA ARCHER

EURO 96 is proving a challenge not only for footballers but also for advertising agencies, eager to achieve "stand-out" for their clients among the glut of commercial messages.

Pedestrian 30-second TV spots and predictable perimeter ads are being tossed aside in favour of an array of novel stunts, dubbed "ambient media" by outdoor specialists Concord who have dreamt up many of the ideas.

These include the branding of the entire Wembley Central Tube station by Snickers, and Mastercard mooring an airship above Wembley, as well as sneaking logos onto microphones which are shoved into Terry Venables interviews alongside the regular TV reporters' mike. Even Nike has mounted a giant banner on a building adjacent to the Manchester venue.

Concord estimates that at least £2 million has been invested in alternative media for Euro 96, but the value of the TV exposure they are securing is incalculable. Sources say the more traditional sponsors and advertisers are considering official complaints.

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The BBC is putting all its eggs in one basket. But is this good or bad news for customers, asks Alexandra Frean

Will we lose our voice in the world?

If the BBC were starting its news operation from scratch, says Tony Hall, now chief executive BBC News, it would be crazy for it to set up separate departments in Broadcasting House (home of network radio), Bush House (home of the World Service) and Television Centre (home of television news).

In attempting to justify the regrouping of the corporation's entire news output into a single base at Television Centre under a single management structure, Mr Hall paints a touching and cosy picture of journalistic nirvana with reporters all pulling together and in the same direction.

"By putting all of the BBC's news operations into a single building they can become more than the sum of their parts. Journalists will be able to encourage each other and widen each other's perception of what's happening in the world. Journalists out in the field will have more outlets and so a much wider audience to broadcast to," says Mr Hall.

There will also, he adds, be considerable efficiency savings, brought about by economies of scale, the use of new digital editing equipment and by multiskilling, which — in theory — will enable reporters to turn their hand as easily to radio or television as to writing a report to be put out on the Internet. As if this were not already enough, the BBC also intends to derive a new stream of income by selling to other broadcasters the multimillion-pound customised digital editing system that it is planning to install.

Real life, of course, is not like this. Many in the World Service, for example, fear that by turning it into a paying customer forced to buy in news from a centralised BBC News (at a price to be determined by BBC News), it will lose its distinctive voice.

After all, it is precisely its "differentness" from the BBC's domestic output that has made the BBC World Service news so great. The World Service does not owe its reputation to its name or the initials "BBC.", but to its output and its ability to respond to the subtle sensibilities of different countries around the globe. To paraphrase George Bush: It's the programmes, stupid.

If the World Service has its own distinctive voice, so, too, does BBC World, the corporation's international, commercial television news service, run by its commercial arm BBC Worldwide, which will also be a paying customer of BBC News.

It is all very well for the BBC's domestic news, for example, to take the intellectual high ground, but different editorial values are needed with BBC World, which has to compete with the likes of CNN, Sky News and NBC Superchannel. There are bound to be minor problems, too, in persuading some of the corporation's older, highly respected and valued reporters to adapt to the brave new digital world of multiskilling.

> 'I have no doubt that if we do nothing, we won't survive'

While Mr Hall recognises some of these potential problems, he clearly believes that the BBC has no alternative but to reorganise to meet growing competition at home and abroad. "I have no doubt that if we do nothing, we will not survive," he says.

Although his concern about the current strength of competition from rival news providers such as the cable business channel, EBN, Channel One, Live TV (yes, he did say Live TV), NBC Superchannel, CNN and Sky News, and the burgeoning commercial radio sector, may be slightly exaggerated, there is no doubt that the voice of BBC News is in danger of being drowned out by rivals.

BBC World provides an apposite case. For all its success in Europe and the Far East (where it is available in 43 million homes), the channel still has not managed to find a single cable company in the United States with room enough to carry it on their systems. The channel is now resigned to having to wait for a slot on a digital broadcasting system to secure its first foothold in North America. It is simply not enough, it appears, for the station to have a brand-name unrivalled in the broadcasting industry *and* access to an immense contemporary and historical news, current affairs and documentary archive made to the highest production values in the world. With so much competition about, what BBC World really needs is marketing nous and there are no signs that the restructuring, which will require it to buy in its programmes from a centralised BBC News in London, will make the slightest difference on this front.

Mr Hall appears impatient with such arguments, stressing instead the importance of the BBC's core values of integrity, impartiality and "editorial sanity" in establishing its proper place in the international marketplace. His overriding concern is that in order to beat the competition, the BBC is able to deliver news to audiences in any form at any time they want it.

In the UK his first step on this road will be the launch of an online news service. Next will come a 24-hour, free-to-air digital television news channel in the UK, possibly as early as January 1998 when the Government hopes the first digital terrestrial services will be made available in Britain to viewers able to invest in the necessary receiving equipment.

Mr Hall hopes that the new channel will have some of the freshness and sheer breadth of coverage of Radio 5 Live and that it will bring in new viewers from commercial television. To help to achieve this he has appointed Tim Orchard, editor of BBC breakfast news, as project co-ordinator for the new channel, reporting to Jenny Abramsky, the new head of continuous news.

Mr Hall envisages news programmes set in a real-life news room, with the coming and going of reporters seen in the background, similar to the current BBC programme *Westminster Live*. "I want to loosen up the atmosphere and to bring in a younger audience," he says.

DES JENSON

Tony Hall, chief executive BBC News: "I want to loosen things up to bring in a younger audience"

A great service to Britain

The planned BBC shake-up has alarmed World Service supporters. Sam Younger, its managing director, explains his vision

At a House of Commons Foreign Affairs Committee hearing on the BBC World Service, the chairman, David Howell, referred to it as the tip on the spearhead of Britain's presence and influence around the world.

My vision is of a World Service in the 21st century which plays that role yet more effectively by proving able to adapt to changing conditions and to exploit new technologies while preserving the core of its identity and status as a key exponent of the best of Britain.

To millions of listeners worldwide, the World Service is the very essence of public service, an essential tool. And in these days of accounting for the cost of everything, we should not be diffident about making the case for it on this basis.

I think, for example, of Afghanistan and Somalia, where our services in Pashto and Somali, although on air for less than 90 minutes a day, have the status of the main national broadcaster. I think of Iran, where our broadcasts in Persian meet a need not just for accurate news but for a window on both Persian and Western culture. And in Burma, the BBC still provides almost the only source of information on the Opposition that won the country's last election but was never allowed to take power. Only last month, Aung San Suu Kyi could be heard speaking to the Burmese people through the BBC's airwaves.

Younger: meeting a need

We are witnessing a trend towards political and cultural fragmentation, or what one might even call — slightly provocatively — tribalisation. This applies to the relationship between North and South, the West and the Islamic world and the West and China. To borrow a concept used by geologists: we are seeing the formation of new tectonic plates, replacing the old ones of the East-West conflict. And with these, new fault lines emerge, along which nationalist and ethnic conflicts can easily spread.

For many years, therefore, short-wave broadcasting from London will provide for much of the BBC's total audience. It cannot be precipitately abandoned, despite funding pressures and technological advances. A new BBC short-wave station will even be opened in Thailand this year to serve audiences in the Indian sub-continent and the Far East. We are planning one further major short-wave development, moving our facility from Masirah to mainland Oman.

However, short wave is a far from perfect delivery medium. The big development of recent years has been the increasing readiness of radio stations in many countries to place World Service programmes in their own schedules on FM or medium wave. What the World Service can offer increasingly is the BBC as a partner. This emphatically does not mean trying to compete anywhere as a local broadcaster but leveraging what I see as the two most valuable historic assets of the World Service — the excellence of its journalistic and production standards and its global perspective and coverage.

An example of an area where this is already becoming a reality occurred last January. A prime-time programme was launched that is a co-production between the BBC and a leading public station, Boston's WGBH. The idea is that the BBC's global news and current affairs agenda can be made to appeal to an American audience even in the key listening times if it is integrated with what is identifiably an American product aimed at the American market. The programme, *The World*, is co-presented from studios in London and Boston, its international news coming from the World Service newsroom and its programme contributions coming from both sides of the Atlantic. It is now aired by 55 stations.

In many of our most important markets, not just in Europe but in the Far East and the Indian sub-continent, our role will change from sole or main provider to "mediator" for those who find that the possible sources are so varied that they need help to decide what is true and what is important in an increasingly interdependent world.

With this in mind, one of the key developments we are exploring is digital technology — which will eventually replace short wave with high-quality signals. This will provide, alongside our present English-language schedule, with its rich mix of news, culture and education, a 24-hour channel devoted entirely to news and current affairs.

I see a World Service reaching out ever more effectively, increasingly in partnership with those it seeks to reach, to the benefit of this country. As time goes on, Britain's international standing and reputation are likely to be even more dependent on the intangible assets which — I hope — it will be imaginative enough to sustain.

- *This article has been adapted from a speech that the author will give to the Royal Institute of International Affairs at the QE2 conference centre tonight.*

Day the *Daily Mirror* went right over the top

As I know only too well from my experience of the Hitler Diaries on *The Sunday Times* and the day the *Today* newspaper splashed with the news that the Princess of Wales was pregnant — she wasn't — there are gut-wrenching moments in all editors' lives when they know they've got it wrong and have made a giant error of judgement.

They know, too, that their rivals are rejoicing and millions of readers are relishing their humiliation.

Such a moment occurred on Monday for Piers Morgan, the Editor of the *Daily Mirror*, when he found all too quickly that his declaration of "war" on Germany ahead of tonight's Euro 96 semi-final — "Achtung! Surrender. For you Fritz, ze Euro 96 Championship is over", accompanied by pictures of Gazza and Sheringham in steel helmets — had utterly misfired and failed to raise the chuckles he expected.

He was attacked on the BBC *Today* programme and the Press Complaints Commission received a record number of complaints. There were angry faxes from readers and he was repudiated by his bosses. Yesterday Vauxhall, one of the sponsors of Euro 96, waved the red card and withdrew its advertising (as it also did from the *Daily Star* which was still peddling "Mein Gott" and "Krauts" in its headlines).

I hated the *Mirror's* shaming anti-German journalism on Monday just as much as its gibes against Spain last week when it published "10 Nasties Spain's Given Europe", which included syphilis, Spanish flu and the Inquisition. That, however, had the saving grace of a touch of wit. Also included was *Eldorado*: "All right, the BBC gave it us, but Spain allowed it to be filmed there".

There are occasions when editors know they have gone over the top. Yesterday, as Morgan retreated under fire, there was not a whiff of xenophobia in the *Daily Mirror*. He declared "Peas in our time" (in yet another of the ghastly puns that all the tabloids are using) and his front page picture showed Jurgen Klinsmann, the German captain, accepting a goodwill gift and peace offering of a Harrods hamper. At *The Sun* they were joking about "appiersment".

As Stuart Higgins, the Editor of *The Sun*, pointed out, Morgan put himself offside on Monday by sliding over the fine line between jingoism (OK) and xenophobia (definitely not OK). Getting that judgment right, sensing the public mood, carrying readers with your editorial decisions, is the skill of editorship.

At both the *News of the World* and the *Daily Mirror* over the past two years, Morgan has shown that he has that skill — and only a month ago he resolutely resisted the xenophobia of his rivals when John Major launched his anti-European beef war. So it is difficult not to feel a sneaking sympathy for him and to think it is better a mass tabloid editor is occasionally outrageous than too timid.

With *The Sun* selling 1.6 million more copies a day than the *Daily Mirror* — and sales of both papers up by 100,000 after England matches — he has constantly to look over his shoulder and try to second-guess his main rival. He was wrong-footed on Monday only by trying to out-*Sun The Sun*, which meanwhile outwitted Morgan by relegating Euro 96 to a sidebar celebrating the contribution to England's success of the 40,000 hats the newspaper handed to fans, and led on a picture of *Baywatch's* Pamela Anderson, husband Tommy Lee and new baby Brandon Thomas clad in black leather.

One happy consequence of Morgan's misjudgment was an unusual outbreak of pro-German sentiment yesterday in the rest of the British press, with the *Daily Mail* denouncing jingoism, the *Daily Express* praising Germany and *The Independent*, published by the Mirror Group, devoting most of a page to Teutonic creativity and headlining its front page: "Don't be beastly to the Germans".

There was also an outbreak of humour in the German press, particularly in *Bild*, Germany's *Sun*. Among 11 *Sun*-style questions it posed for the English yesterday were: Why have you never won the European championship? Why do you look like freshly-cooked lobsters after one day on the beach? Andreas Koepke, the German goalkeeper, was surprised that the *Mirror* had managed to find a steel helmet big enough for Gascoigne.

Often in the past the tabloids have built up England's sporting heroes, only to crucify them when they fail. That will not happen if, God forbid, England lose tonight. Both Higgins and Morgan agree that after their performances in Euro 96, England have reached Frank Bruno status. They will still be heroes.

ONE EL OF A KICK FOR THE SUBS

One of the plum jobs in Fleet Street is writing the headlines on the front and back pages — and splash subs love puns such as the *Daily Mirror's* "Edam Busters" after England beat the Dutch. I offer a selection from England's finest headline writers after Seaman's match-winning save in the penalty shoot-out against Spain. Seaman sinks Armada. *The Observer*: Seaman rules the waves. *Mail on Sunday*: Seaman's Mission. *The People*: Seaman sinks 'em. *News of the World*: One El of a Win. *The People*: Ole for Goalie — Fans have El of a party. *Sunday Mirror*: It's The Sun Hats Wot Juan It! *The Sun*.

AN EXCLUSIVE TIMES COMPETITION

Win a Spider worth £22,000

Today *The Times* gives you the chance to win the award-winning Alfa Romeo Spider, worth £22,000.

With its top speed of 130mph and a 0-62mph acceleration in 8.4 seconds, the stylish two-seater is an impressive mover. Combining low fuel consumption and low exhaust emissions, the Spider's engine is also as environmentally friendly as they get.

A new multi-link rear suspension system anchored to a light alloy subframe set below the floorpan, ensures maximum tyre contact with the road at all times, even during hard cornering, and exploits the transverse loads generated by the steering which normally trigger body roll.

The Alfa Spider has been designed to meet the most demanding safety standards and its features include central locking, power steering, electric windows, height and reach-adjustable steering and sound system.

The bucket seats have been ergonomically designed: decidedly sporty in shape, they are heavily bolstered for good support and comfort.

HOW TO ENTER

For your chance to win the Alfa Romeo Spider collect six differently numbered tokens from those appearing daily in *The Times* until Friday, June 28, 1996. (You may enter twice if you wish.) Send them with the completed entry form to:
The Times Spider Prize Draw Competition,
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PRIZE DRAW CONDITIONS
The prize draw is open to all *Times* readers over 18.
The winner will be chosen at random from all entries received before the closing date of Monday, July 8, 1996. The prize is not transferable. There is no cash alternative.

THE TIMES
TOKEN 10

Choose your video release from a hole in the wall

Nicole Veash looks at a marketing revolution from Italy that promises to end the rental monopoly by offering cut-price videos from a dispenser

The first hole-in-the-wall dispenser issuing videos and CD-Roms has been launched in Britain by Cinemat UK.

Customers in Islington, north London, with a personalised smart-card will be able to choose from up to 520 of the latest video releases, or 910 CD-Roms at any time of the day, seven days a week.

Thomas Oronti, the director of Cinemat UK, says: "The video rental market is picking up again, but the

These machines allow people to choose the films they want to watch any time of the day or night."

Dispensers were launched seven years ago in Italy, where there are now 4,000 machines. Video club members can select a movie using genre, title, actor or director. A summary of the plot is given on-screen alongside a computer-generated graphic showing the front cover of the video.

The machine, which costs £21,900 to buy, also has a slot for videos to be returned. They can be programmed so that children are permitted to take out only U or PG-rated films.

Mr Oronti says: "These machines can be put anywhere. In Italy it is common to lease an area of another business and not to have a shop at all." Prices can be set depending on time of return, with six hours' hire costing about £1.80, 12 hours about £2.50 and 24 hours £3.00.

Lavinia Carey, director-general of the British Video Association, says: "Many people have looked at launching this system in the UK and decided there are a number of problems with it. Customers lose the ability to browse and they don't see any advertising. And there is a problem with children getting age-restricted videos when they borrow their parents' card."

But Rob Mead, news editor of *VTV Magazine*, says: "Anything that breaks down the video rental monopoly and broadens access to videos is a good thing."

The video rental industry boomed last year, with *Forrest Gump* the most popular choice

THE TIMES TODAY

WEDNESDAY JUNE 26 1996

NEWS

Major urged to announce reshuffle

■ Senior ministers are urging John Major to bring forward next month's planned reshuffle to end speculation about the future of some Cabinet members, including the Agriculture Minister, Douglas Hogg.

The Prime Minister has said that he wants to leave the Cabinet unchanged but a reshuffle of middle-ranking ministers is being forced on him by Tim Eggar and Steven Norris, who want to leave front line politics..................Page 1

Rushing home for ring-side seats.

■ Millions will rush home from work tonight to take their television seats for England's soccer clash with Germany. In addition to 76,000 fans at Wembley another 20 million are expected to watch on television. The AA said: "The rush hour will be much more concentrated than normal"........Pages 1, 2

Buddhist finds

The British Library has discovered sensational manuscript fragments whose potential signficcance for Buddhist scholars is comparable to that of the Dead Sea Scrolls for Christianity and Judaism..........................Page 1

Grammar revival

Ministers hope to rush through legislation before a General Election to revive the grammar school and give comprehensives freedom to select..................Page 1

Tory MP's anger

John Major was on a collision course with dozens of Tory MPs by brushing aside demands to stop the £1.6 billion sale of armed forces' married quarters...Page 2

Theologian acquitted

A leading Scottish theologian was acquitted of five charges of sexual assault after a court ruled that he was the victim of a church conspiracy......................Page 3

Medical 'disaster'

Medical care in the inner cities is threatened with disaster because of the exodus of doctors from the NHS, the British Medical Association said..........................Page 4

Hero's badge stolen

The mother of an SAS hero killed in action pleaded for burglars to return her last memento of her son — a brooch in the shape of the SAS winged-dagger cap badge..............................Page 5

Card fraud

Fraudsters are gaining unexpected bargains from the new supermarket loyalty cards. They are being reprogrammed with stolen details of bank accounts for use as fake "swipe cards"...........Page 6

Nuclear Blair

Tony Blair confirmed that he would be prepared to authorise a nuclear attack...................Page 11

Generals purged

Russia's new security boss, Aleksandr Lebed, purged seven generals from the Defence Ministry in his first big shake-up since being appointed........................Page 13

Israeli anxiety

Israel raised with Warren Christopher, the American Secretary of State, its deep anxieties that Egypt has recently acquired Scud missiles and launchers from North Korea..................Page 14

Germany-China row

Bonn and Peking were caught up in a political feud over Tibet that could harm Germany's position as China's main European trading partner......................Page 15

Boycott call

Well-off consumers should be urged to boycott products made by children to try to stamp out the growth in child labour, said Bill Jordan, general secretary of the Brussels-based International Confederation of Free Trade Unions.............................Page 16

Vital statistic is being under 25

■ The most vital statistic for some models yesterday was their age. Sixty of them, all beyond the ripe old age of 25, have been told their services are no longer required. IMG Models has decided to clear its books of many of its "older more commercial girls" in an attempt to move upmarket towards the trend for younger, more "homespun" girls...................Page 3

RICHARD RAYNER

Susan Garnett, custodian of Mount Grace Priory, in North Yorkshire, with weld, a herb that has lain dormant for 400 years. The priors would have used the weld, also known as "dyers' rocket" to provide yellow dye for their garments

BUSINESS

Wickes: The DIY chain directors were under siege after revealing accounting problems........Page 27

Sears: The retailing group which lost £120 million last year is to stop making donations to the Conservative Party Sir Bob Reid, its chairman, told a stormy annual general meeting..........................Page 27

Prudential: Britain's biggest life insurer, is to create the first quoted reinsurance company on the British stock market by floating its subsidiary, Mercantile & General by the end of the year........Page 27

Markets: The FT-SE 100 index fell 31.3 points to close at 3679.5. Sterling's trade-weighted index rose from 85.9 to 86.0 after a rise from $1.5398 to $1.5408 and from DM2.3580 to DM2.3600... Page 30

SPORT

Football: Bobby Robson, the former England manager, says that the present side has the capacity, the motivation and the conditioning to beat Germany at Wembley tonight — but this is no time for faint hearts......................Page 52

Tennis: Tim Henman defeated Yevgeny Kafelnikov, the No 5 seed at Wimbledon to lead a day of British successes. Henman will now meet another Briton, Danny Sapsford..........................Page 52

Cricket: Yorkshire and Worcestershire won the two NatWest Trophy first-round matches between first-class counties. There was no giantkilling.................Pages 44, 45

Racing: A decision to keep the Vodafone Derby on a Saturday will be made shortly................ Page 43

ARTS

Rome lit up: The British film director Peter Greenaway has been given the run of the Piazza del Popolo in Rome to mount a dazzling light show.............................. Page 40

Melodious Minnelli: On her new album Liza Minnelli casts aside her bravura style and delivers gentle performances of classic American songs. "It's rather brave of me to do this at 50, but then perhaps you have to be 50 to expose yourself so"...................................Page 41

Verdi with vigour: The Verdi Festival moved into gear with a production of *Giovanna d'Arco* ...Page 42

Moonlight tragedy: A new film by Ellen Simon, *Moonlight and Valentino*, draws on her grief after her husband was killed in a road accident............................ Page 40

FEATURES

What we believe: Nigella Lawson looks at atheism; Damien Keown explains the allure of Buddhism; and three personalities discuss personal beliefs......................Page 19

FASHION

Just in time for summer: The crisp, clean, classic white shirt is back — but with a difference.........Page 18

MEDIA

The World Service: The chief executive BBC News and the managing director of the World Service seek to calm fears......................Page 25

Over the top: *The Daily Mirror's* declaration of "war" on Germany has totally misfired, says Brian MacArthur ....Page 25

HOMES

Preserving property: They may be charming but should these postwar houses be listed? ....Page 34

THE PAPERS

The drastic Chinese reaction to the German parliament declaration on Tibet is prompted by what Peking regard as Western interference on the issues of Taiwan and Tibet. One can deduce that the power struggle in Peking is forcing leaders to take a tough line on foreign policy . . . the cancelling of the invitation to the German Foreign Minister is not a disaster

— *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung*

TOMORROW

IN THE TIMES

■ **FILMS**
Geoff Brown on the film debut of Jon Bon Jovi (left) in *Moonlight and Valentino*

■ **BOOKS**
Jeanette Winterson on Picasso's portraits, Raymond Seitz on the *DNB*, Peter Ackroyd on Matthew Arnold

TV LISTINGS

Preview: Tea Leoni stars as a tabloid photographer in a new American comedy. *The Naked Truth* (Channel 4, 11pm); **Review:** Lynne Truss sees *Cardiac Arrest* go out on a high..............................Page 51

OPINION

Shephard's steps

Far from failing the less obviously able, selection offers the same benefits as it does the gifted — an opportunity to have an education tailored to aptitudes..........Page 21

The China trap

Peking acts as though the investment it needs is China's to command. It may not always be so.......................................Page 21

Heaven's gate

"But this is a free-wheeling brainstorming dialogue to understand the difficulties and dangers of the role of First Lady in a chauvinist society"...............................Page 21

COLUMNS

SIMON JENKINS

After the 1965 education reorganisation, I was convinced that wherever further reform might lead, it would not be back to institutional selection at 11. The Tory party showed political maturity in accepting this, though most 11-plus winners were its supporters. Selection at 11 was too unfair. It was for history's dustbin. We seem to be watching a party determined to join it there........................ Page 20

JOHN REDWOOD

England's football fixture against Germany has raised more than the usual hyperbole, lurid headlines and hot air. There is something special about the contest. It has stirred deep feelings.......... Page 20

ALAN COREN

Half the women in the average waiting-room, it seems, are ill because they are sexually unhappy, and all that is required to put the roses back in their cheeks is a romp with their GP.................. Page 20

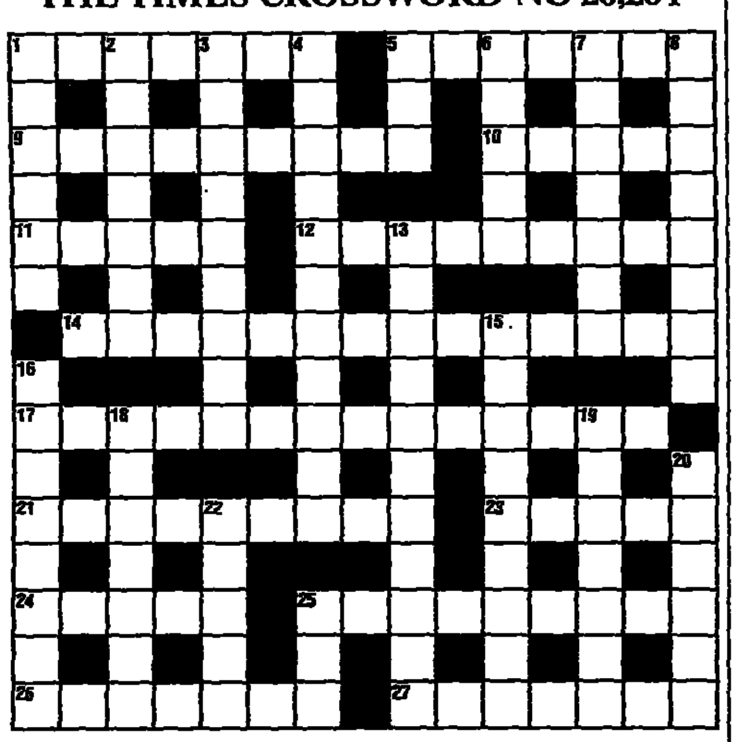
OBITUARIES

Pasqualino Di Santis, cinematographer; **Rear-Admiral Philip Burnett**, anti-submarine expert; **Kenneth Rankin**, economist... Page 23

LETTERS

Our place in Europe; St Ethelburga; followers of Odin versus the Channel Tunnel Rail Link; Becket's casket..............................Page

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,204



ACROSS

1 Head of Manchester University board is not fixed (7).
5 For example, Rosemary's carry-on with bishop (7).
9 Cheating by little boys condemned (9).
10 It sounds like knife is needed for Indian hemp (5).
11 Overturn report written by union leader (2-3).
12 An inclination for the square cut (9).
14 One who lays down his own life for others (14).
17 Theatre bars odd variety act (5,3,6).
21 Possible danger on short flight — it helps make us bitter (3-6).
23 Frank character (5).
24 Marriage bouquet, with extra love (5).
25 Reverting to type, Hindu deity is put back in top place (9).
26 Dubious lawyer taken in by mass hysteria (7).
27 Others, too, round here in Rome, being honest (7).

DOWN

1 Make fun of riding in experimental model (4-2).
2 Part of car made of gold supporting heavy weight (7).
3 Cover the eyes and collapse after drinking bout (9).
4 Sort of church to get confirmed in (11).
5 Remove shells from part of aircraft (3).
6 Like the rise and fall of a sound (5).
7 The language of the American side! (7).
8 Bigmouth is first to gamble in card game requiring skill (8).
13 Unsettled existence in southern states associated with slavery (11).
15 A mother's story announced in the Economist (4,5).
16 Artist's impressions about getting absorbed in oriental affairs (8).
18 Sound made by you to fake harmony (7).
19 Harsh treatment given to triads caught (7).
20 A photo with a lion's head at the top (6).
22 Representative for a cause (5).
25 Sort of bed that is warm and dry (3).

Solution to Puzzle No 20,203

P	E	T	E	R	S	H	A	M	■	C	A	D	E	T
I	■	A	■	E	■	O	■	A	■	O	■	E	■	A
P	E	R	U	S	E	R	■	C	O	A	R	S	E	R
P	■	N	■	O	■	S	■	■	■	T	■	P	■	P
A	D	I	E	U	■	E	N	C	H	I	L	A	D	A
■	■	S	■	R	■	D	■	O	■	■	■	I	■	U
A	S	H	■	C	H	O	L	E	S	T	E	R	O	L
N	■	■	■	E	■	C	■	X	■	I	■	■	■	I
T	Y	P	E	S	E	T	T	I	N	G	■	V	A	N
I	■	L	■	■	■	O	■	S	■	H	■	E	■	■
P	L	U	T	O	C	R	A	T	■	T	O	R	S	O
A	■	M	■	V	■	■	■	E	■	R	■	D	■	P
S	U	B	J	E	C	T	■	N	E	O	L	I	T	H
T	■	E	■	R	■	A	■	C	■	P	■	C	■	I
O	R	R	I	S	■	B	E	E	F	E	A	T	E	R

Times Two Crossword, page 52

This puzzle was solved within 30 minutes by 51 per cent of the solo competitors in the London Regional Final of *The Times* Aberlour Crossword Championship and by 50 per cent of the pairs.

TIMES WEATHERCALL

For the latest region by region forecast, 24 hours a day, dial 0891 500 followed by the appropriate code:

Region	Code
Greater London	701
Kent,Surrey,Sussex	702
Dorset,Hants & IOW	703
Devon & Cornwall	704
Wilts,Gloucs,Avon,Soms	705
Berks,Bucks,Oxon	706
Beds,Herts & Essex	707
Norfolk,Suffolk,Cambs	708
West Mid & Sth Glam & Gwent	709
Shrops,Herefds & Worcs	710
Central Midlands	711
East Midlands	712
Lincs & Humberside	713
Dyfed & Powys	714
Gwynedd & Clwyd	715
N W England	716
W & S Yorks & Dales	717
N E England	718
Cumbria & Lake District	719
S W Scotland	720
W Central Scotland	721
Edin S Fife/Lothian & Borders	722
E Central Scotland	723
Grampian & E Highlands	724
N W Scotland	725
Caithness,Orkney & Shetland	726
N Ireland	727

Weathercall is charged at 39p per minute (cheap rate) and 49p per minute at all other times

AA ROADWATCH

For the latest AA traffic/roadworks information, 24 hours a day, dial 0336 401 followed by the appropriate code.

London & SE traffic, roadworks	
Area within M25	731
Essex/Herts/Beds/Bucks/Berks/Oxon	732
Kent/Surrey/Sussex/Hants	734
M25 London Orbital only	736
National traffic and roadworks	
National motorways	737
West Country	738
Wales	739
Midlands	740
East Anglia	741
North-west England	742
North-east England	743
Scotland	744
Northern Ireland	745

AA Roadwatch is charged at 39p per minute (cheap rate) and 49p per minute at all other times

HIGHEST & LOWEST

Yesterday: Highest day temp: Aboyne, Grampian, 28C (82F); lowest day max: Fair Isle, Shetland, 11C (54F); highest rainfall: Tiree, Inner Hebrides, 0.47in; highest sunshine: Falmouth, Cornwall, 14.8hr

FLIGHT SAVERS

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FORECAST

☐ **General:** England and Wales will have varying amounts of cloud. Much of the south will stay dry, although the odd spot of rain cannot be ruled out entirely. Most of any rain will be confined to northern parts. It will be warm, with light winds from the north west.

Scotland and Northern Ireland may have rain for a time in the morning but the cloud will break to give sunny spells. The exposed north and north west will have a few mainly light showers. It will be mild, with light to moderate northwesterly winds.

☐ ***London, SE England, E Anglia, Central S England, E Midlands, Channel Isles, SW England:*** variable cloud, mainly dry. Wind light northwesterly. Max 23C (73F).

☐ **E England, W Midlands, S Wales, N Wales, NW England, Central N, NE England:** cloudy with occasional light rain or drizzle. Wind light northwesterly. Max 21C (70F).

☐ ***Lake District, Isle of Man,* Borders, Edinburgh & Dundee, Aberdeen, SW Scotland, Glasgow:** occasional light rain at first, then generally dry. Wind light to moderate northwesterly. Max 19C (66F).

☐ **Central Highlands, Moray Firth, NE Scotland, Argyll, NW Scotland, Orkney, Shetland, N Ireland:** sunny intervals with a few mainly light showers. Wind light to moderate northwesterly. Max 16C (61F).

☐ **Outlook:** remaining mainly dry and warm. Rain in the north later.

☐ **Pollen forecast:** Scotland, North Wales, South West, London, low to medium; N England, N Ireland, Midlands, medium; E Anglia, South Wales, South East, medium to high.

AROUND BRITAIN YESTERDAY

24 hrs to 5 pm: b=bright; c=cloud; d=drizzle; ds=dust storm; du=dull; f=fair; fg=fog; g=gale; h=hail; r=rain; sh=shower; sl=sleet; sn=snow; s=sun; t=thunder

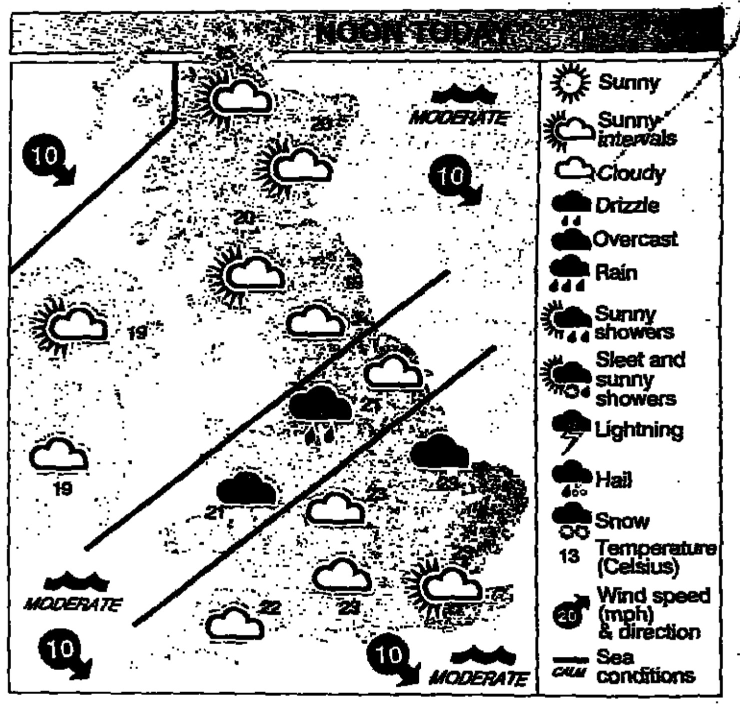
	Sun hrs	Rain in	Max C	Max F	
Aberdeen	11.9	-	24	75	s
Anglesey	8.6	-	18	64	s
Aspatria	6.4	-	19	66	b
Aviemore	11.2	0.01	25	77	r
Belfast	0.9	0.02	17	63	r
Birmingham	14.1	-	22	72	s
Bognor R	12.0	-	22	72	s
Bournem'th	11.6	-	23	73	s
Bristol	13.2	-	20	68	s
Buxton	8.5	-	20	68	s
Cardiff	X				
Clacton	10.0	-	15	59	s
Colwyn Bay	X				
Cromer	3.2	-	15	59	b
Dunbar	7.9	-	22	72	s
Eastbourne	9.8	-	19	66	s
Edinburgh	8.4	0.01	24	75	c
Eskdalemuir	5.0	0.01	17	63	c
Exmouth	12.7	-	19	66	s
Falmouth	14.8	-	16	61	c
Fishguard	4.0	-	15	59	c
Folkestone	2.5	-	16	61	c
Glasgow	5.5	0.01	20	68	r
Guernsey	12.9	-	19	66	s
Hastings	7.3	-	17	63	b
Hayling I.	12.7	-	23	73	s
Herne Bay	X				
Hove	9.8	-	18	64	b
Hunstanton	X	-	21	70	s
Ilfracombe	X				
Isle of Man	7.0	-	16	61	b
Jersey	13.5	-	21	70	s
Kinloss	11.7	-	22	72	s
Leeds	14.8	-	23	73	s
Lerwick	0.6	0.01	14	57	fg
Leuchars	8.8	-	23	73	s
Littlehmptn	12.1	-	24	75	s
London	11.7	-	26	79	s
Lowestoft	2.4	0.01	16	61	b
Manchester *	6.4	-	21	70	s
Margate	4.3	-	17	63	c
Minehead	12.8	-	17	63	s
Morecambe	3.8	-	18	64	du
Newcastle	12.8	-	22	72	s
Newquay	2.7	-	16	61	c
Norwich	4.8	-	21	70	c
Oxford	13.1	-	24	75	s
Penzance	3.2	-	17	63	c
Poole	11.5	-	25	77	s
Ross-o-wye	10.9	-	23	73	s
Ryde	13.6	-	24	75	s
Salcombe	X				
Sandown	12.3	-	21	70	s
Saunton Snd	2.0	-	16	61	du
Scarboro'	13.3	-	18	64	s
Shrewsbury	7.1	-	21	70	s
Skegness	8.8	-	17	63	s
Southend	X				
Southport	6.1	-	20	68	s
Southsea	13.1	-	22	72	s
Stornoway	3.0	0.17	13	55	r
Swanage	12.8	-	21	70	s
Teignmouth	12.1	-	19	66	s
Tiree	1.3	0.42	13	55	r
Torquay	14.3	-	19	66	s
Ventnor	13.6	-	21	70	s
West-s-mare	10.6	-	19	66	s
Weymouth	12.1	-	18	64	s

ABROAD

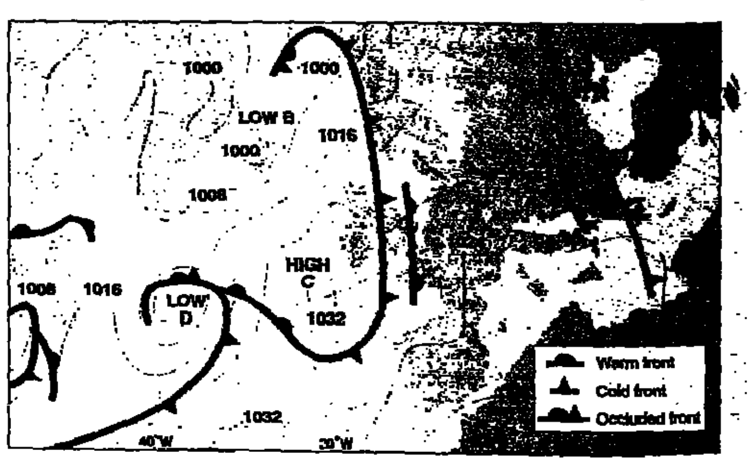
	C	F	
Ajaccio	23	73	f
Akrotiri	29	84	s
Alex'dria	30	86	s
Algiers	21	70	c
Amst'dm	13	55	c
Athens	32	90	s
B Aires	14	57	s
Bahrain	36	97	s
Bangkok	32	90	f
Barbados	28	82	f
Barcelona	20	68	s
Beirut	28	82	s
Belgrade	20	68	c
Berlin	13	55	c
Bermuda	X		
Biarritz	20	68	f
Borde'x	21	70	f
Brussels	12	54	c
Budapest	17	63	f
Cairo	35	95	s
Cape Tn	15	59	c
Ch'church	10	50	s
Chicago	23	73	f
Cologne	15	59	c
Corfu	26	79	f
C'phagn	16	61	s
Dublin	15	59	c
Dubrovnik	23	73	s
Faro	26	79	s
Florence	22	72	f
Frankfurt	13	55	c
Funchal	20	68	f
Geneva	17	63	s
Gibraltar	23	73	s
Helsinki	16	61	c
Hong K	29	84	f
Innsbrck	16	61	f
Istanbul	31	88	s
Jeddah	37	99	s
Jo'burg	13	55	f
L Angels	20	68	f
L Palmas	24	75	c
Le Touqet	14	57	f
Lisbon	28	82	s
Locarno	21	70	s
Luxembg	11	52	c
Luxor	39	102	s
Madrid	22	72	s
Majorca	23	73	f
Malaga	25	77	s
Malta	28	82	s
Melb'rne	15	59	f
Mexico C	23	73	f
Miami	24	75	h
Milan	21	70	f
Montreal	18	64	s
Moscow	28	82	s
Munich	14	57	c
N Delhi	X		
N York	23	73	f
Nairobi	21	70	s
Naples	26	79	f
Nice	23	73	f
Oslo	21	70	s
Paris	15	59	c
Peking	28	82	f
Perth	14	57	c
Prague	13	55	c
Reykjavik	13	55	c
Rhodes	31	88	s
Rio de J	20	68	f
Riyadh	39	102	s
Rome	22	72	f
S Fr'sco	16	61	f
S Paulo	22	72	f
Salzburg	16	61	f
Santiago	7	45	c
Seoul	21	70	r
Sing'por	32	90	s
St'kholm	16	61	f
Strasb'rg	16	61	s
Sydney	18	64	f
Tangier	28	82	s
Tel Aviv	29	84	s
Tenerife	24	75	f
Tokyo	25	77	c
Toronto	18	64	c
Tunis	19	66	c
Valencia	24	75	s
Vanc'ver	16	61	c
Venice	21	70	f
Vienna	18	64	f
Warsaw	16	61	f
Wash'ton	31	88	s
Wel'ngton	12	54	s
Zurich	16	61	s

Temperatures at midday local time on Monday. X = not available

NOON TODAY



Changes to chart below from noon: high C will move slowly NE and decline; low B will move slowly NE and fill; low D will move NE with little change in pressure



HIGH TIDES

TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT
London Bridge	8:51	6.2	9:12	6.2
Aberdeen	8.37	3.5	9:20	3.5
Avonmouth	1.34	10.5	2.16	10.5
Belfast	6.15	3.2	6.54	3.1
Cardiff	1.37	9.5	2.26	9.4
Devonport	0.04	4.5	12.55	4.4
Dover	6.16	5.5	6.40	5.7
Dublin (N Wall)	6.53	3.5	7.30	3.5
Falmouth	0.02	4.2	12.41	4.1
Greenock	7.20	2.9	8.18	2.7
Harwich	6.49	3.5	7.18	3.4
Holyhead	5.24	4.6	6.15	4.6
Hull (Albert D)	1.13	6.0	1.21	6.1
Ilfracombe				
King's Lynn				
Leith	9.49	4.6	10.29	4.9
Liverpool	6:10	7.7	6.52	7.8
Lowestoft	5.19	2.1	4.29	2.2
Margate	7.18	4.0	7.30	4.1
Milford Haven	0.57	6.5	1.36	6.4
Newquay	0.13	5.2	12.53	5.2
Oban	0.19	3.1	1.46	3.0
Penzance	12.07	4.5		
Portland	0.37	1.4	1.59	1.4
Portsmouth	6.10	3.9	6.55	4.2
Shoreham	6.07	4.9	6.48	5.2
Southampton	5.40	3.8	6.24	4.1
Swansea	0.57	7.6	1.37	[illegible]
Tees	11.05	4.5	11.47	[illegible]
Walton-on-Naze	6.46	3.5	7.10	3.5

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HOURS OF DARKNESS

Sun rises: 4.45 am
Sun sets: 9.22 pm
Moon sets: 1.34 am
Moon rises: 3.48 pm

London 9.22 pm to 4.45 am
Bristol 9.31 pm to 4.55 am
Edinburgh 10.03 pm to 4.29 am
Manchester 9.42 pm to 4.42 am
Penzance 9.36 pm to 5.14 am

Full moon July 1

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